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FOR SIXTEEN YEARS, THE LESBIAN AND GAY WEEKLY

Homophobia continues after shooting of two Ithaca lesbians

Woman who survived attack encounters victim-blaming defense attorney and sensationalistic news coverage

By Chris Bull

NEW YORK — The murder of a lesbian and serious injury of her lover in a shooting attack on the Appalachian Trail in May has sparked outrage in the Ithaca lesbian and gay community. On June 27, the community responded to the homophobic violence, legal tactics of the defense attorney and local press coverage of the issue with one of the largest lesbian and gay demonstrations in the city's history.

Claudia Brenner was seriously wounded and her lover of three years, Rebecca Wight, killed on May 13 when they were shot while camping in northeastern Pennsylvania. Activists in Ithaca charge that not only was the attack motivated by homophobia, but that the suspect in the case is using what has become known as the "homosexual panic defense."

At a June 23 preliminary hearing in Pennsylvania, Brenner testified that Stephen Roy Carr, the defendant, shot the couple shortly after they had set up camp off the Trail on the evening of May 13. At the hearing, Michael George, Carr's court-appointed defense council, asked questions of Brenner that implied the couple had "provoked" the attack. Responding to questions by George, Brenner said neither she nor Wight "put on a show" for Carr or "teased" him.

Kevin Berrill, director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force's anti-violence project, told *GCN* that the defense attorney's line of questioning is not uncommon. "The basic message behind the

defense tactic is to blame the victim. This is why it is important to stand up to the tactic. In a way the women involved are taking it on the chin for all of this. She [Wight] was killed for what she represents. The outpouring of support for the survivor is very important," said Berrill.

Andrea Clardy, spokesperson for Brenner, said the demonstration was called in part to "show the world neither violence based on homophobia nor a homophobic defense" will be tolerated.

Calling for responsible journalism

The day after the preliminary hearing, the *Ithaca Journal* printed an article by Associated Press reporter David Morris under the headline "Women Teased Me, Mountain Man Testifies." Ithaca activists objected to the way in which the sensationalistic headline and article directly linked the women's relationship with the attack without putting them in the context of hate-inspired violence. Morris reported that the couple "performed sexual acts with each other along the Appalachian Trail the day of the shooting."

In addition, Morris reported of Brenner's testimony: "Brenner said she and Wight saw Carr several times along the trail on May 13. But she said she did not see Carr or anyone else when she and Wight were shot without warning shortly after they engaged in sex at the campsite." In response to

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'Missing: 200,000 New Yorkers'

NYC cuts by half the estimate of HIV prevalence, drawing the anger of AIDS activists

By Chris Bull

NEW YORK — The City Department of Health on July 21 halved its estimate of how many New Yorkers are currently HIV positive. The revision was due to a new estimate that only 100,000 gay men live in the city, despite previous official estimates of up to 500,000.

New York AIDS activists reacted with anger to the new estimates, accusing the Health Department of fashioning statistics to match its budget for AIDS. "The Health Department has shown an incredible lack of political foresight in releasing the new estimates. It gives the signal that the AIDS crisis is not so big and that we no longer need to worry about it so much. When in reality we have only begun dealing with AIDS," said Carisa Cunningham, a spokesperson for Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC) in New York. Cunningham also voiced concern that the lesbian and gay community

was left out of the decision-making process.

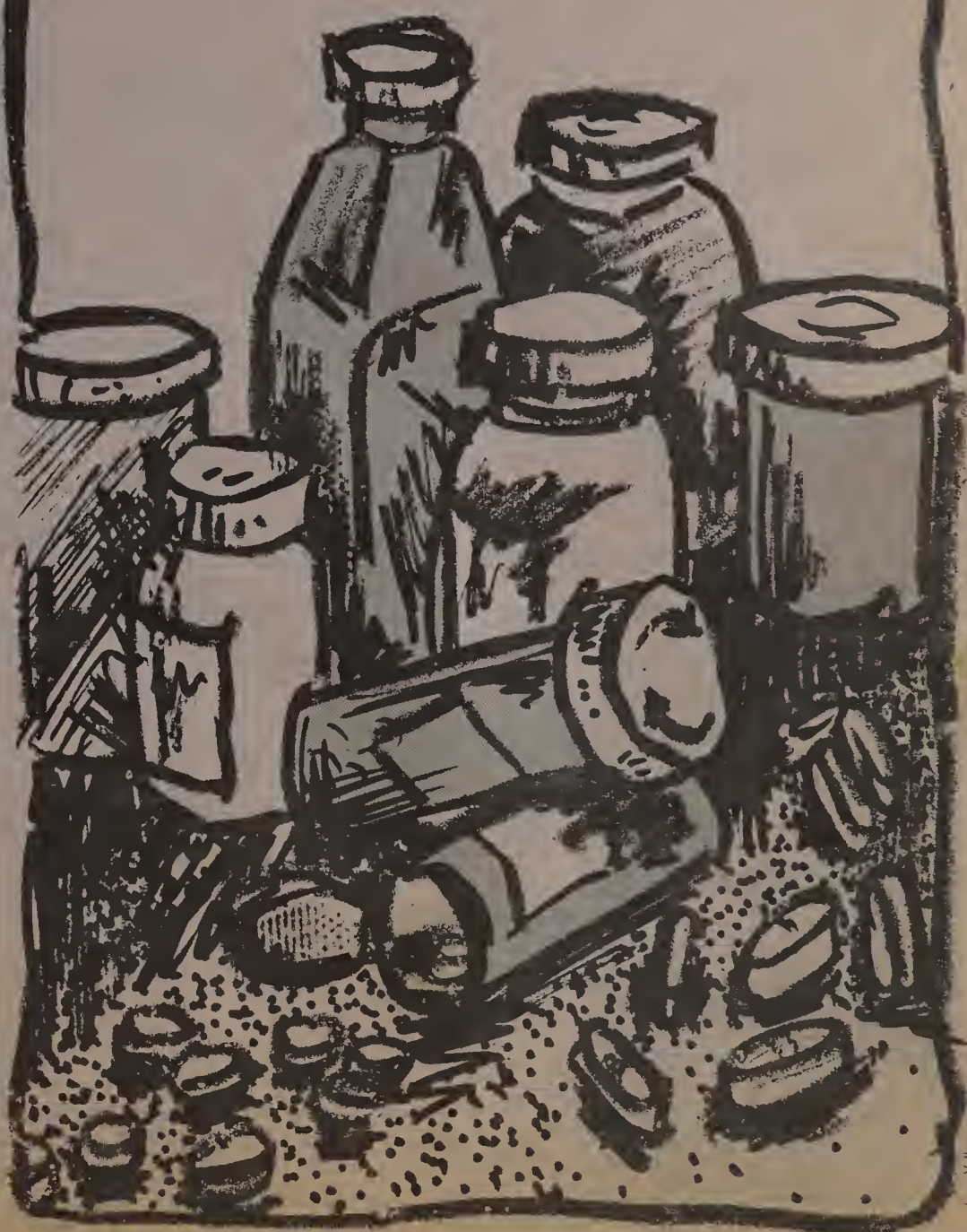
Two hundred thousand New Yorkers are now estimated to be HIV antibody-positive, down from the previous estimate of 400,000. The Health Department claims the new figure is extrapolated from epidemiological studies of gay men in San Francisco, where an estimated 60,000 gay men reside. The New York Health Department claims that New York has almost twice the number of gay men as San Francisco.

Cunningham warned against basing New York statistics on a San Francisco model, saying, "The two cities are very different." Cunningham added that GMHC is soliciting "independent" studies of HIV prevalence in New York City.

Craig Harris, executive director of the New York Minority Task Force on AIDS, told *GCN* the new estimates once again

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A PWA MOVEMENT OF GUERRILLA CLINICS



Jean Vallon

Oregon lesbians and gay men rally to preserve rights

Two new groups combine strategies to defeat right-wing ballot measure

By Betsy Brown

PORTLAND, Ore. — About 250 people rallied on July 8 at Terry Schunk Park to kick off the campaign against an anti-gay ballot measure that will face Oregon voters in November.

Earlier in the day, the right-wing Oregon Citizens Alliance and the "No Special Rights" Committee had delivered 118,000 petition signatures to the state capitol in Salem. This number was nearly twice as many as were needed to put the anti-gay measure before the voters.

Right-wing forces seek to nullify an executive order issued by Gov. Neil Goldschmidt last October. This order covers agencies under the governor's control, and forbids discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in the provision of state services and in the hiring and treatment of state employees. The executive order defines sexual orientation as including homosexuality, bisexuality, and heterosexuality, and it explicitly rules out affirmative action based on sexual orientation.

These facts haven't been sufficient to quiet claims by fundamentalist Christian leaders that the executive order grants "special privileges" to gay men and lesbians. Sponsors of the ballot measure gathered signatures under banners proclaiming "No Special Rights For Homosexuals." Mike Wiley, a chief sponsor of the ballot measure, insisted that Goldschmidt's order "has the effect of giving the homosexual state employee an advantage over his or her heterosexual counterpart."

At the evening rally in Portland, Cathy Siemens of Oregonians for Fairness (OFF) described watching the ballot measure's sponsors deliver "boxes and boxes" of anti-gay petitions to the statehouse. "They were waving flags and thumping Bibles," she

said. "It was really scary." Then, Siemens told rallygoers, the sky opened, "and I heard the voice of God. And she said, 'I want you to stop those guys.'" The crowd roared its approval for this Word from on High.

Other speakers and performers at the rally included: Multnomah County Commissioner Mike Lindberg; folksinger Kate Sullivan; members of the gay activist group Queers United Against Closets (QUAC); and Jimmy Brian, field services secretary of the Oregon Public Employees Union and a founder of Lesbian/Gay Unionists.

Oregonians for Fairness, which sponsored the rally, and Queers United Against Closets, which performed a skit there, both grew out of a community meeting held in Portland in May. But OFF and QUAC seem to take widely differing approaches to battle to save the pro-gay executive order.

OFF was formed by people associated with the Right to Privacy Political Action Committee, Portland's Lesbian Community Project, and the Oregon ACLU's Commission on Gay and Lesbian Rights. OFF is still pursuing legal challenges to keep the anti-gay measure off the November ballot — hence the name "OFF." Failing that, OFF's strategy seems to be to use mainstream political connections and expertise to defeat the ballot measure. OFF hopes to raise \$400,000 and recruit hundreds of volunteers to counter the \$600,000 anti-gay forces say they will raise and spend.

QUAC's focus seems to be guerilla theater and public education. About 100 QUAC supporters staged a Father's Day protest at Hinson Baptist Church in Portland, a focal point for anti-gay political organizing. More than 120

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Quote of the week

“At this point, after the candidates have been selected, think of the November election as a one-night stand. It’s about ten minutes to two, and the bar is about to close. The choice is narrow.”

— Rep. Barney Frank (D-Mass.), urging lesbian and gay attorneys at the Democratic National Convention in Atlanta to overlook Dukakis’ anti-lesbian and gay polices and vote Dukakis for president. He added that like a one-night stand, “voting for someone doesn’t mean you are pledged to him or her for eternal fealty.”

Austria cracks down on lesbian/gay youths

VIENNA — Austrian education officials have filed formal charges against the gay/lesbian youth group Homosexuelle Initiative, Vienna, [HOSI] under Paragraph 220 of the criminal code. Ac-



Jean-Claude Letist

cording to Jean-Claude Letist, Co-General Secretary of the International Lesbian and Gay Association, the action was precipitated by a letter sent by HOSI to school officials encouraging them to inform lesbian and gay students about the group.

Paragraph 220 forbids promoting homosexuality, and has not been invoked in 40 years.

HOSI and education officials are now preparing for the third hearing in the trial. □ Richard Steinman

Boston Black lesbians and gays to meet

BOSTON — The National Coalition for Black Lesbians and Gays [NCBLG] has called an open meeting for August 10, 7:30 p.m., at the Office of Youth Initiative, 312 Stuart St., Boston, to form an official NCBLG chapter in Boston.

Founded in 1978, NCBLG serves as a network for Black lesbians and gay men and works in the Black, gay, and lesbian communities to combat racism, sexism, and homophobia. NCBLG has 18 chapters and organizing efforts around the country.

NCBLG National Co-Chair Angela Bowen and David Johnson, a Greater Boston Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance steering committee member, will chair the August 19 meeting, and hope to have a Boston chapter organized by the time of the 10th Annual NCBLG Conference, to be held in Washington Sept. 30 — Oct. 2.

For more information about the Boston meeting or the national conference, call (617) 491-6851.

□ Dan Page

Wisconsin lesbian couple fights for insurance

MADISON, Wisc. — National Gay Rights Ad-

vocates (NGRA) has filed a new action with the state of Wisconsin to uphold the right of Jerri Lynn Phillips, a state employee, to add her lover Lorri Tommerup to her group health insurance plan. The state has denied Phillips’ request since she and Tommerup are not legally married.

Commenting on the case, now pending in the state’s personnel commission, NGRA Legal Director Leonard Graff said that the challenge is based on Wisconsin’s statute barring discrimination based on marital status or sexual orientation. NGRA Executive Director Jean O’Leary noted that Phillips and Tommerup have been family partners for five years and that “their relationship is in every way as...valid as that of a married couple. NGRA is committed to ensuring that [gay and lesbian] couples receive equal treatment.”

A ruling on the case is not expected until late this year.

□ Dan Page

Women in the civil rights movement — 1941-1965

ATLANTA — The first national conference on women and the civil rights movement, “Trailblazers and Torchbearers: Women in the Civil Rights Movement, 1941-1965,” is scheduled for Oct. 12-15 in Atlanta. Sponsored by the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Non-violent Social Change and Georgia State University, the conference will focus both on the often-ignored participation of women in the Black civil rights struggle and on the importance of this history in other contemporary U.S. social change movements.

Conference topics will include oral histories of women activists in this period, the role of women in the Black church, and the interaction of race, class, and gender in civil rights work. The activity of women in the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee and the Highlander Folk School will also be examined.

The conference will conclude with discussions about women’s political empowerment in the context of the accomplishments and failures of the civil rights movement, and the emergence of feminist, Native American, Latino, and gay/lesbian political movements.

For more information contact, Marmal Dryden, Conference Director, Division of Continuing Education, Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA 30303-3096, (404) 651-3476.

□ Dan Page

Union contract protects les/gay federal employees

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Workers at the federal Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) are now protected under a contract between HHS and the National Treasury Employees Union which forbids the government agency from discriminating against lesbian and gay employees, according to *Weekly Federal Employees’ News Digest*.

□ Dan Page

TV divorce court tells dyke to get “treatment”

LOS ANGELES — A June episode of the television program *Divorce Court* suggested that lesbians are mentally ill and in need of psychiatric treatment.

While deciding in favor of the plaintiff (the woman) and rejecting her ex-husband’s charges of lesbianism as a basis for his ruling, presiding Judge Keane suggested that she use some of her spouse support payments to “seek whatever treatment you think is needed,” according to *Network News* of Savannah, Ga.

□ Dan Page

New Jersey AIDS research group underway

SOUTH HACKENSACK, N.J. — The newly-formed North Jersey Community Research Initiative [NJCRI], a part of the North Jersey AIDS Alliance [NJAA], is seeking physicians and scientists to design and execute community-based clinical trials of HIV/AIDS treatments.

Modelled on the original Community Research Initiative of New York, founded in 1986, NJCRI will address the urgent need for experimental treatments to prevent HIV-infected persons from developing AIDS and to treat people already diagnosed with AIDS. Currently, there are no adult AIDS Clinical Testing Units in northern New Jersey, despite Health Department estimates of at least 50,000 HIV-infected individuals in the seven-county North Jersey area.

Like the New York CRI, NJCRI is expected to significantly expand the access of PWAs, PWARCs, and HIV-infected people, especially those from “disadvantaged groups,” to adequate medical treatment in their local area.

Contact NJAA at P.O. Box 1535, South Hackensack, NJ 07606.

□ Dan Page

Upstate New York project started

BINGHAMTON, NY — The Lesbian Switchboard of the Women’s Center of Binghamton has initiated a support and education project for lesbians of color, recovering alcoholics, old lesbians, and lesbian youth.

The Project aims to make the community “more aware of the needs of certain groups [and] foster dialogue” about the resources available to lesbians in the area. In addition to “brainstorming sessions,” support groups, and special programming for women in the groups served, the Project will educate the lesbian/gay community and professional service providers about the needs of lesbians of color, alcoholics, and old and young lesbians.

Anyone interested in these issues in the upstate New York/NE Pennsylvania area should contact the Lesbian Outreach Project at the Women’s Center, P.O. Box 354, Binghamton, NY 13902, (607) 724-3462.

□ Dan Page

Rhode Island rights bill killed

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — The end of June marked the end of the road for Rhode Island’s 1988 gay and lesbian civil rights bill. The bill, which would have banned discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, pertained only to accommodations and credit and omitted reference to employment protection. It passed the state House of Representatives by a 66-16 vote earlier this year, but was recently defeated in the Democratic-controlled Senate by a vote of 17-19.

A surprise “no” vote by the Senate minority leader who had previously supported the bill in committee was key to the bill’s defeat, according to *The Weekly News*. Proponents of the bill have suggested that legislative corruption affected the Senate action.

Rep. Linda Kushner is expected to reintroduce the bill next year. Meanwhile, gay and lesbian state employees are protected by the anti-discrimination executive order issued by Governor Edward DiPrete.

□ Alicia Cobb

Educators issue pro-gay resolution

SAN FRANCISCO — The National Educational Association (NEA) passed a resolution in support of lesbian and gay students at its recent meeting in New Orleans. The resolution states: “The (NEA) believes that all persons, regardless of sexual orientation,

should be afforded equal opportunity within the public education system. The Association further believes that every school district should provide counseling for students who are struggling with their sexual/gender orientation.” In addition, NEA approved a plan mandating a country-wide analysis of programs for lesbian and gay youth. Further findings and recommendations will be presented at the next NEA meeting, according to the *Bay Area Reporter*.

The two-year-old NEA lesbian/gay caucus was primarily responsible for passage of these measures and is optimistic about implementing further proposals next year, including an amendment to the family life education resolution which would call for information regarding sexual orientation for classroom use.

□ Alicia Cobb

Soldier acquitted in AIDS endangerment case; military makes safer sex compulsory

SIERRA VISTA, Ariz. — Private Adrian G. Morris, Jr., a soldier who tested positive for HIV antibodies, has been acquitted of aggravated assault charges for having unprotected sex with three other soldiers but was found guilty of two lesser charges, including sodomy. Morris, 28, was the first member of the U.S. armed forces to be tried on an AIDS-related charge. After testing HIV-antibody positive, he had unprotected sex with at least two women and one man. He was accused of recklessly endangering their lives, even though all three continue to test negative for HIV antibodies. The military judge found that when Morris had sex with the man and one of the women he was not aware that HIV could be spread through semen. However, before Morris had sex with the second woman, he had received extensive counseling on HIV transmission.

In a related development, the U.S. Army and Air Force have adopted a policy requiring all HIV-antibody positive personnel to tell potential sex partners that they are infected and to use a condom for all sexual intercourse or face court martial and potential discharge.

Commanding officers are required to discuss a written statement with each individual who tests positive, according to the *New York Times*. Says Col. Harry Beans, “We don’t order them to refrain from sex. I don’t think we could do that.” But he believes a partner must be told “so that he or she can make an informed decision.”

□ Paul-David Walder, Lori Kenschaft

Lesbian attorney resigns from ACLU

LOS ANGELES — Susan McGreivy, who has argued many ground-breaking lesbian and gay rights cases, resigned as staff attorney of the Los Angeles branch of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) on June 30.

During her eight years at the ACLU, McGreivy defended the Gay Olympics; a gay Eagle Scout denied a position as a Scout leader; and a woman dismissed by the U.S. Army after revealing that she was a lesbian. She also argued in favor of keeping Los Angeles bathhouses open and co-authored the legal brief in the “Arline” case, which resulted in a Supreme Court decision banning discrimination against a person with tuberculosis. The Los Angeles ACLU lesbian and gay rights chapter estimates that the Arline case has been cited in 300-400 AIDS discrimination cases.

An organizer of the October 13 Civil Disobedience at the Supreme Court, McGreivy is planning to write a book on feminist analysis of the law and will continue to work with the ACLU on a free-lance basis.

□ Chris Bull

NEWSNOTES COMPILED BY DAN PAGE

The report of the Presidential Commission on HIV

An analysis

By Mark O'Malley

The June 24 report of the "Presidential Commission on the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)" the official title of Reagan's commission on AIDS, has provoked mixed reactions from lesbian and gay activists. While the report recommends confidentiality and anti-discrimination protections for those who test positive for HIV (a virus believed by many to be a cause of AIDS), it also calls for such measures as partner notification (of possible exposure to HIV) and the criminalization of "knowing" HIV transmission.

"I feel very good about the report," said Stephen Beck, executive director of the National Association of People With AIDS (NAPWA). Beck added, "It is critical that the gay community not stand back and give unqualified support to this report, but it is also critical that the gay and AIDS community give mild applause and support the progress it demonstrates." Stephen Busby, an AIDS activist with the Boston AIDS activist group ACT UP, was less enthusiastic: "I think the report's whole analysis is homophobic and judgmental, even where it's compassionate. With the [gay] community leaders supporting these recommendations, I'm afraid we'll never see anything better from the government."

The report strongly recommends the prevention of discrimination based on HIV antibody status in both the public and private sectors, stating that the President should "issue an executive order banning discrimination on the basis of handicap, with HIV infection included as a handicapping condition." It also recommends that all national educational materials relating to HIV and AIDS include a clear message that HIV infection cannot be a basis for discrimination. These recommendations fly in the face of stated Reagan administration policy. In 1986, the Department of Justice, under Edwin Meese, issued a memorandum which supported AIDS-related discrimination based even on unfounded fears of contagion. The Commission calls on the Department of Justice to issue "a follow-up memorandum expressing support for [discrimination protections] and withdrawing its earlier opinion."

Ben Schatz, of National Gay Rights Advocates (NGRA) in San Francisco, said, "The report's focus on discrimination is invaluable for us. It will make it more difficult for politicians to ignore the discrimination



Ben Schatz of the National Gay Rights Advocates

issue." Craig Harris, of the New York Minority AIDS Task Force, reacted more cautiously. "You can legislate anti-discrimination, but that doesn't mean it will happen," he said. He also noted that civil rights suits require time and resources, and that "people with AIDS are concerned about the time they have left, and may just not have time to pursue that option."

The Commission also calls for "rigorous maintenance of confidentiality" of individuals' HIV status. It cites the necessity of confidentiality "to encourage individuals to come forward voluntarily for necessary testing, counseling, and treatment." The report goes on, however, to list numerous exceptions to this recommendation, saying disclosure of HIV status without the individual's consent should be permitted in the following cases: to an individual's "direct care giving team," including doctors, nurses, and case managers; to health care workers accidentally exposed to the individual's body fluids; for statistical reports (so long as the reports themselves maintain

confidentiality); to the state health agency; to blood, organ, semen, or milk banks; to spouses and sexual partners; on the basis of court orders sought by public health officials; and to "the victim of a sexual assault."

The report also recommends contact tracing and partner notification for those who test positive for HIV antibodies. It recommends limited quarantine as a "last resort" for "recalcitrant individuals." The Commission also recommends mandatory testing of "sexual offenders." Even if the person convicted initially tests negative, the report recommends repeated testing, and the notification to the person assaulted of any positive result.

Stephen Busby, of Boston ACT UP, commented that these recommendations "bring to mind images of 1984." Busby said that partner notification of HIV infection differed from partner-notification of other sexually transmitted diseases because currently there is no cure for AIDS, and therefore knowledge of *possible* infection "doesn't do anyone any good, and may actually do them harm by unnecessarily creating anxiety." Busby added "If [people] are concerned about their own exposure, they always have the option of seeking testing themselves. Breaching the infected person's confidentiality won't help them." He also noted that the "sexual offender" category could include adults who have consensual sex with adolescents.

Tom Brant, a spokesperson for the Commission, defended the recommendations. "Those who are being exposed have a right to know," he said. Asked whether this "right to know" outweighed the right of HIV-antibody-positive people to confidentiality, Brant declined to comment, saying, "I can't speak for the Commission." Schatz, of NGRA, criticized these recommendations, but said, "I think the issue of limited contact tracing is one that we're not going to be able to fight."

The Commission calls for the criminalization of "knowing" HIV transmission. The report states, "HIV-infected individuals who knowingly conduct themselves in ways

that pose a significant risk of transmission to others must be held accountable for their actions." Lesbian/Gay and AIDS activists uniformly condemned this recommendation. Busby said that this recommendation continues a pattern of "assigning guilt" for HIV infection, and obscures the need "for everyone to take responsibility for preventing the spread of the virus, whether they are currently exposed or not." He called it "an ideological response to a medical problem," and predicted that criminalization would lead to the "persecution and stigmatization of those who already face a devastating illness."

Defending the recommendation, Commission spokesperson Brant said, "Society has a responsibility to treat those with HIV. There's also a responsibility on the part of HIV-infected individuals not to spread the virus." Kristine Gebbie, a Commission member and a nursing professor at Oregon Health Science University, expressed reservations about this recommendation. She said, "I have a lot of problems with criminalization. It's not really relevant to stopping the epidemic." Stephen Beck (of NAPWA) suggested that this recommendation was "a bone thrown to the Commission's more conservative members to win their support for the report as a whole."

The report addresses the issue of AIDS and intravenous (IV) drug use. It calls for "treatment on demand" for IV drug "abusers" and enforcement of drug laws, but fails to mention alternatives such as encouraging the use of bleach to clean needles, and distribution of free needles.

Beny Primm, the Commission's only Black member and the executive director of The Addiction Research and Treatment Corporation in Brooklyn, denied that free needles and bleach campaigns would stop the spread of infection. He said that distributing clean needles would lead to "an upsurge in drug use. We're talking about endorsing a genocidal program." He stated that treatment and education were the best means of controlling the epidemic among IV drug users. He said, "In some cases, we need to be coercive about getting people into

Reagan sidesteps HIV Commission report

The President accepts a limited ban on AIDS-related discrimination but ignores most of his Commission's other proposals

By Chris Bull and Mark O'Malley

WASHINGTON — To the dismay of AIDS activists and some members of his own Presidential Commission on HIV, President Reagan decided July 24 to reject key recommendations presented in the Commission's month-old report. (See story, this page). Although he recommended barring AIDS-related discrimination for all federal employees, Reagan refused to call for federal legislation to ban discrimination for employees of private businesses. He also delayed acting on most of the other legislative proposals until the U.S. Attorney General has had time to review the report. Reagan has also thus far ignored the Commission's call for vastly increased AIDS funding, restructuring of the Federal Drug Administration (FDA) and stepped-up federal AIDS research. Reagan's decision followed a meeting last week with his special assistant on drug policy, Donald Macdonald, who reviewed the report at the President's request.

Bill Bahlman, who attended every Commission hearing as a representative of ACT UP/New York, termed the President's action "outrageous. It is clearer than ever that the administration wants to do as little as possible to stop AIDS. Even his own commission is shocked at his inaction. He sidestepped every positive recommendation and acted only on the least controversial part of the report."

James Watkins, chair of the Commission, said anti-discrimination legislation is the "cornerstone" of the report at a press conference following its June 24 release. He explained that antidiscrimination laws and confidentiality are essential to "stopping the spread of the disease." The *Boston Globe*

reported that Watkins is "extremely upset" at the President's response to the report and will issue a statement within the next month.

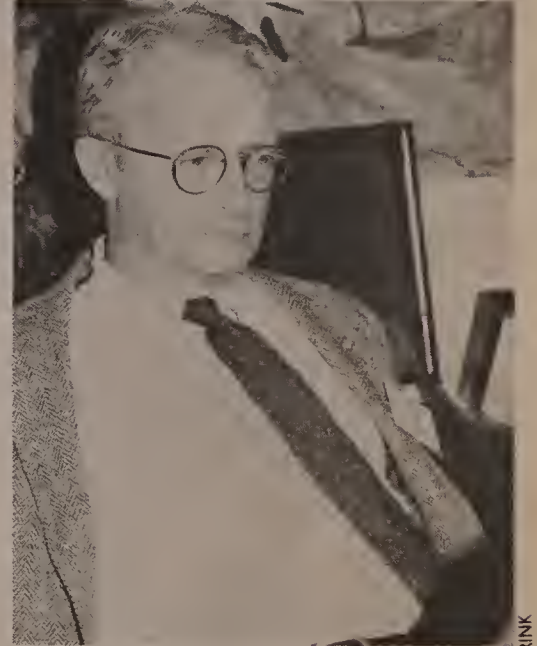
Macdonald advised Reagan that federal anti-discrimination laws for the private sector were unnecessary because many states had already enacted anti-discrimination legislation. Macdonald recommended the FDA begin contacting people who had blood transfusions between 1977 and 1985 to request that they seek HIV antibody testing. He also advocated complying with the Commission's recommendation that the Department of Health and Human Services increase community-based educational programs.

Despite the Reagan administration's attempt to undermine the report, activists told *GCN* it has already had a positive impact for some PWAs. HIV Commission spokesperson Tom Brant noted that on June 29, the House of Representatives passed an amendment to the Fair Housing Act of 1968 extending its protections to specifically cover people who test HIV antibody-positive. Brant suggested that the report helped clear the way for passage of this amendment.

Stephen Beck, executive director of the National Association of People With AIDS, concurred. "Right now, the Commission report is very helpful as a lobbying tool." Beck noted that both Michael Dukakis and George Bush have accepted the recommendations, including those on discrimination. He also suggested the report would influence AIDS policy for the next administration. He concluded, "this report is going to affect more and more people. [The candidates] see this as an issue for the future. They want to be prepared for ten years from now." □

treatment. Send them to prison if they are not willing to enroll in treatment." Harris criticized the report's emphasis on enforcement, noting that, "Putting people in jail won't stop the virus from spreading." In fact, prisons are virtual breeding grounds for AIDS, due to lack of safer sex and safer drug use education, condoms and uncontaminated needles.

The report strongly criticizes the Reagan administration and its agencies for their



Commission member Frank Lilly, the only gay member handling of the crisis, expressing particularly sharp criticisms of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), where it found management and funding problems which "impact negatively on FDA's ability to respond to the epidemic." The report continues, "[These problems] also present a recruiting problem for FDA, as qualified individuals could work elsewhere under much better conditions. This has had a negative effect [on] both morale and working relations with the private sector." The report calls the FDA's investigational new drug (IND) program to expand availability of new drugs "a failure" and pinpoints the President's Office of Management and Budget (OMB), as the primary source of financial obstacles to effective research at federal AIDS-related agencies. The report notes, for example, that "OMB has thwarted recent attempts by CDC to expand and modernize [its] facility. Being housed in an antiquated facility has severely hampered CDC's ability to respond effectively to the HIV epidemic. In March, 1988 OMB sent a memorandum to the President describing CDC's request for the construction of additional facilities as 'wasteful' " The report calls on OMB to increase the resources available to these agencies, and concludes, "OMB should not undermine congressional intent."

In the areas of basic research, drug development, and treatment, the Commission calls for "increased access by a broader spectrum of infected population to a greater variety of experimental treatments." The report calls for increased access for women and IV drug users in particular, who have frequently been excluded in the past. It cites "the need to eliminate wherever possible the use of placebo-controlled trials...the need for direct federal support of quality-assured community-based drug trials...[and] the need for FDA resources to process more rapidly all HIV-related applications." Bill Travis, a PWA active in NAPWA, said, "I'm glad they took a critical look at the administration on issues of treatment and drug approval." Travis criticized the report's failure to mention any treatment other than AZT. He said, "AZT is not the answer for all of us. There needs to be some other choice. No one [on the Commission] has taken a stand on this."

The report devotes only two (of almost 200) pages to issues of prisoners and HIV. It calls for education of prisoners, but fails to mention the distribution of condoms and/or clean needles. It calls for prisons to "strongly urge voluntary testing" without addressing the coercive nature of prisons. It recommends "limited" disclosure of prisoners' test results, without specifying how to limit disclosure. Finally, the report condones the segregation of prisoners infected with HIV, while admitting that such segregation is unlikely to stop the spread of infection.

The report acknowledges some of the par-

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GCN Job Openings

Staff Writer/Circulation Co-Coordinator

Available in October: Research, investigate and write news stories primarily about Boston/New England, and as necessary, stories with a national scope. May include some analytical/feature writing as well. Share responsibilities with other staff writer for coordinating weekly mailing of paper and processing subscriptions. Qualifications: Strong writing skills and ability to write several stories under weekly deadline pressure. Knowledge of local/national lesbian and gay community and issues helpful. Strong organizational and record-keeping skills and knowledge of data entry and/or computers also helpful. Deadline for application is September 2.

All **GCN** positions require a commitment to lesbian/gay liberation, feminism, anti-racism, an awareness of class issues and a commitment to the collective decision-making process.

Salary/Benefits: All positions pay \$200/wk and include eligibility for ADW Workers Trust health/life insurance, routine health care through Fenway Community Health Center, paid sick leave and four weeks annual paid vacation. **GCN** offers staff members responsibility for their own jobs with flexibility and ample room for innovation.

To apply for this position, please send resume and cover letter ASAP to **GCN** Job Search Committee, 62 Berkeley Street, Boston, MA 02116.

Lesbians and gay men of color are particularly encouraged to apply.

Typesetting Business Coordinator

Part-time position available end of August: Typeset monthly newsletters and journals on deadline, handle business accounts, promote business and attract new clients and coordinate volunteer typesetters as needed. Qualifications: experience typesetting (knowledge of Compugraphic Editwriter helpful), familiarity with or ability to learn light book-keeping, organizational skills and commitment to lesbian and gay liberation. Hours vary according to clients' schedules and range from 2-12 hours/week during weekday evenings and weekends. Hours may increase as business expands. Deadline for application is August 17.

Salary/Benefits: \$8/hour plus some benefits or \$10/hour without benefits.

To apply for this position, please send resume and cover letter ASAP to **GCN** Job Search Committee, 62 Berkeley Street, Boston, MA 02116.

Lesbians and gay men of color are particularly encouraged to apply.

GCN welcomes all letters to the editor except personal attacks. Carbon copies of letters sent elsewhere are printed on a space-available basis. The opinions expressed here are those of the author and are not intended to represent the views of the GCN membership. Letters must be TYPED, DOUBLE-SPACED AND NO LONGER THAN THREE PAGES. Send to: Community Voices, GCN, 62 Berkeley Street, Boston, MA 02116.

Join GCN at "The Newlybed Game"

Dear *GCN*:
Moonshine, the video bar at Club Cabaret, is proud to announce the first of what we hope will become an annual event — The Summer Gamcs: A Month of Benefits.
Each evening, Thursday through Sunday through Labor Day weekend, a different fund-raising event will be held at Moonshine. These evenings will include talent contests, bingo, a dance party, and various game shows, including "The Dating Game," "Follywood Squares," with local celebrities, and our version of "Family Feud," involving "families" from different gay businesses and organizations.
Proceeds raised will benefit organizations involved with the issues and concerns of the gay community: among other things, AIDS care and research, gay dignity, and gay rights.
Beyond the support offered to these organizations, these evenings will give peo-

ple a chance to get better acquainted with the work being done for the gay community, and to learn how these organizations might be of service to us.
We hope to be able to bring our very diverse community together to share in the work which is common to all of us: seeing an end to the crisis which we face, and establishing a solid and lasting sense of pride and dignity which each of us deserves.
We hope you can join us at Moonshine for these events. They are sure to be great entertainment — and of great value to the community.

Sincerely,
John Harvey
General Manager, Club Cafe
Boston, Mass.

P.S. If you'd like to be a contestant, or donate one of the many prizes we'll need, please contact me or Toni Nuzzo, at 536-0972.

[On Friday, August 19, Club Cabaret will sponsor "The Newlybed Game for Men," a benefit for GCN.]

It goes both ways

Dear *GCN*:
For several months your letters page has featured dissenting opinions with regard to the *GCN* Prisoner Project. Regrettably, I must admit, as a prisoner, that some inmates do 'use' their friends outside. However, such abuses are not that common as far as I can see, and in fact such abuses are not unilateral. I am writing you because I need your help to salvage a bad situation which I find myself in as a direct result of trusting the wrong penpal. Please understand that I do not blame *GCN*, nor do I blame my correspondent, but I do need the help of the readers.

Acting upon the word of my penpal, I put together a complex web of commitments in support of a commutation application. I've been assured by those in a position to offer such guarantees that my application will result in my release later this year, but only if I can find a job and, by implication, a place to live. It seems that the promises of my correspondent in this regard were but bait to entice me to send photos and j/o letters. When I finally gave in to his demands, he stopped writing and left me in a very difficult position.

I don't believe that my 'friend' realized that, if I cannot find another job guarantee, it may cost me several more years in prison. That is because my defaulting on my commitments will preclude similar arrangements in the future and it is these contracts which would allow my release in '88 rather than '98.

I desperately need a job. I don't care what it is, where it is, or how much it pays. To be honest, at this point, I'd pay for a job if I could. My profession is funeral service, but I'm trained for, and experienced in, marketing, social work and clerical. (I'm very good with microcomputers.) I can even do construction work (electrical, plumbing, etc.)! I'm not looking for loans, sex, or anything other than a promise of a job. Please help me. I swear that you won't be sorry. Please drop me a line if you will even consider helping me. I'll really appreciate it.

Respectfully,
Mike Parrott
PO Box 14 — 13941
Boise, ID 83707

Decriminalize and deregulate needles and drugs

Dear *GCN*:
Marea Murray's article on IV drug use and AIDS in the July 17-23 *GCN* (Vol. 16, No. 2) raised some important issues, but did not go far enough. Instead of more government intervention in the lives of individuals through "treatment" programs and needle exchange trials, people would benefit most from less regulation and interference by the government.
Decriminalizing and deregulating the use of needles would produce more beneficial results than needle exchange. People share needles, at least in part, because of a shortage of needles caused by laws restricting their use. An exchange program would not remedy this problem; it would simply provide clean needles to a limited number of users, not increase the supply. So most drug users would be unaffected by the program. Free access to cheap, sterile needles would

Gay Community News is produced by a collective dedicated to providing coverage of events and news in the interest of gay and lesbian liberation. The collective consists of a paid staff of eleven, a general membership of volunteers, and a board of directors elected by the membership.

Opinions reflected in "editorials" represent the views of the paid staff collective. Signed letters and columns represent the views and opinions of the authors only. We encourage all readers to send us comments, criticism, and information, and to volunteer and become members.

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allow drug users to protect themselves from HIV transmission, while remaining free of surveillance and intervention by public health authorities.

Getting the government out of other aspects of the drug business would also have a number of other benefits. Decriminalizing and deregulating street drugs would result in cheaper and safer drugs, reduce street crime, and reduce health risks to the user. Deregulating prescription drugs would allow individuals, including people who have AIDS and AIDS-related conditions to choose their own therapies, independent of the health care establishment. This would also free manufacturers and distributors of drugs from the deadly bureaucratic red tape of the FDA [Food and Drug Administration] and DEA [Drug Enforcement Agency]. Deregulation of "therapeutic" drugs, like with street drugs, would vastly reduce the cost to the consumer as well.

People should be free to ingest or inject whatever drugs they like. Getting the government and other busybodies out of this and all other aspects of our lives is a truly outrageous idea which should be tried.

Joe Peacott
Boston, Mass.

Michigan sets the record straight

Dear *GCN*:

In your June 19-25, 1988 paper (Vol. 15 No. 47), a letter to the editor appeared under the heading, "Michigan Queers for the Duke." The letter stated that certain gay rights activists from Michigan did indeed support Michael Dukakis for President of the United States. The elected Board of SEMGLA (South-Eastern Michigan Gay and Lesbian Association) has no quarrel with those who expressed their opinion in this letter, but SEMGLA as an organization has not endorsed any candidate for elective office. While the Board of SEMGLA holds various opinions on this subject, we have never voted to make a public statement supporting any candidate; therefore the implication that SEMGLA favors Dukakis over Jackson is incorrect.

Thank you for the opportunity for SEMGLA to set the record straight.

Sincerely,
Judith D. Thompson
Secretary, The Board of SEMGLA
Detroit, Mich.

Boston police corruption and gay bars

Dear *GCN*:

Have I missed something? I've been trying to follow the ongoing Boston police corruption trial. An article in the *Boston Globe* on July 19 describes videotaped evidence admitted earlier in the week which shows the owner of a local gay bar, the 1270, making payments to the police for "protection." It has also been alleged that payments were made to police to "fix" various liquor violation citations and to cover up a rape which allegedly occurred at the club.

I find these allegations rather disturbing. Have we made no progress since Stonewall other than gaining the right to a parade once a year? Why have I seen nothing in the local gay press about these events? Is there no one at your paper who feels that this may be of interest to your readers? Am I the only person wondering why gay bars are paying off the cops in 1988? Please tell me that I simply overlooked your coverage, and list dates and pages where I may follow this story in your paper.

Sincerely,
C. Barnes
Wolfeboro, N.H.

Lesbian in need of home

Dear *GCN*:

Mary, not her real name, is a 14½-year-old woman in search of a short-term (one to three month) home. A youth advocacy organization is presently working to find her a permanent living situation. With no parents, and too young to work, Mary survives by living at youth shelters or stays a night at a time with concerned individuals (or people who take advantage of her). When there is no place to go, Mary relies on tricking to make money, something she adamantly does not want to do. Mary identifies herself as lesbian and would love to stay with lesbians. She is easy to get along with and willing to help with household

chores and children in exchange for a place to stay. She does not wish to become a client of the Department of Social Services (DSS) for two reasons: first, she feels like she would have more control over her life if she wasn't in that system; and second, she wants to stay with lesbians, which is against DSS policy. If you would be interested in providing safe shelter to this bright young survivor, or would like more information, please call Sharon at the Women's Center (617) 354-8807, or leave a message at (617) 738-9713.

Judy Norris
Boston, Mass.

Free Christian Science Montior subscriptions

Dear *GCN*:

While watching the Democratic Convention coverage in Atlanta, I saw an offer from *Christian Science Monitor* that I couldn't refuse. The newspaper that mistreats its gay and lesbian employees and says that gay news is no news is offering a free month's subscription. All I had to do was call an 800 number and give my mailing address and phone number. What a deal!

After a month, *Christian Science Monitor* will send me a bill for the next two months. If I find the lack of coverage of gay and lesbian issues is unacceptable I can let them know at that time and cancel the subscription with no obligation.

I have asked all my friends here in Roseburg, Ore., to also take advantage of their free offer. We are going to meet regularly while enjoying our free subscriptions to discuss ways that we can educate the management about gay and lesbian issues.

If people in other communities wish to follow our example, just call 1-800-257-1257 and ask for the *Christian Science Monitor*.

With love,
Billy Riesso
Winston, Ore.

Remember Karl Ulrichs

Dear *GCN*:

Karl Heinrich Ulrich's 163rd birthday will be celebrated on August 28. It would be a shame to pass up the birthday of someone who championed gay rights without remembering him. Ulrichs is the first known person to advocate the idea that gay people are healthy in both body and soul.

It would be nice if all *GCN* readers took a few moments on August 28 to say thanks to him for speaking out on behalf of all gay men and women.

If anyone wants information about the life and work of Ulrichs, they may contact us by calling or writing to us: 6858 Arthur Court, Jacksonville, Fla. 32211; (904) 744-7879.

Yours sincerely,
Michael A. Lombardi
Paul Nash
Jacksonville, Florida

Don't beware of Joint Venture

Dear *GCN*:

With reference to the "Beware Joint Venture" letter to the editor, appearing in the July 10-16 edition of *GCN*, we are compelled to reply with a statement of facts which is more than a little at odds with the attack made upon Joint Venture by John Norman.

John Norman, (alias Doug White, alias Steven Spearman, alias J. Castle, etc.) claims to have "founded" Joint Venture; yet he does not offer even so much as a single receipt to indicate an investment of one penny on his part. Certainly he is not "responsible for the fact" the Joint Venture exists today. In point of fact our membership has quadrupled since his departure.

Fact: John Norman stole the Joint Venture computer system, as well as software, printers and office equipment. Fact: at the time I discovered his whereabouts and reported him to the police, he had assumed a new name and had used the stolen computer and equipment to establish a business. Fact: the police were helpful in recovering the stolen equipment, and cooperative in restoring it to us at the earliest date. Fact: the police took pains to preserve the privacy of our membership. We do, indeed, believe they acted in a compassionate and responsive manner.

Norman claims he was convicted for possession of a photograph of himself and a 16-year-old. Fact: the photograph did not include Norman. It was a photograph of a

15-year-old boy, nude and masturbating alone, who had sent the photo to Norman after answering an *Advocate* ad which Norman had placed. Fact: Norman, using the name J. Castle, deceived the boy into believing that he (Norman) was an 18-year-old Northwestern University student. Fact: Norman is in his 60s. Not until Norman's sentencing, at which the boy offered to testify, did the two ever meet.

Fact: Norman was wanted, and arrested, on an outstanding warrant in Pennsylvania from which state he was a fugitive from justice. The charges against him were an assortment including deviate sexual assault, indecent assault, indecent exposure, corruption of a minor, sexual abuse of children and interfering with the custody of children.

Norman states that Joint Venture claims to have helped the police gain a conviction against him. Fact: he pleaded guilty in a bargaining agreement with Illinois and Pennsylvania, thereby convicting himself with no assistance. At the time of his sentencing in Illinois, Norman was served with a warrant from Colorado, where he was also wanted for offenses similar to those in Pennsylvania. His 30-year career at such activities is well outlined by Clifford Linedecker in a book entitled *Children in Chains*, a chapter of which graphically exposes Norman's superbly developed skills in manipulating both adolescents and the truth.

It is no secret that many men behind bars endured their adolescent years of life in wretched physical and emotional abuse. It would not be appropriate for Joint Venture to tolerate or support a staff member who has a history of manipulative and abusive behavior. To do so would be inconsistent with our purpose, which is to make possible a realistic and empathetic contact with the outside world.

Evidently irritated over his expulsion from our staff, Norman has undertaken a direct-mail campaign. Fact: he has stated in writing that he would like to "...see Joint Venture dismantled." Fact: he has suggested, in a letter to a member, a method by which he imagines the database could be destroyed. (The unauthorized invasion of, and tampering with, a business database is a felony.) Now, having failed to excite much sympathy from our members, he has turned to writing open letters in publications.

Fact: attempting a hate-letter attack upon me, Norman has written to a friend of mine in an outrageous effort to convince my friend that I am HIV positive. Norman then complains in a later letter that I have "subsequently submitted to HIV testing deliberately to discredit" him.

Finally, he claims that Joint Venture collects data "far beyond matters of public record" — a fantastic and frightening innuendo worthy of Joseph Goebbels — while neglecting to specify how that is possible. Fact: the only data Joint Venture requires for non-inmate membership is a preferred name ("Boxholder" is sufficient) and mailing address, with an optional private phone number — exactly the same "data" required to place a classified ad in the *Chicago Tribune*! Inmate members are required to submit additional information to be verified before acceptance as members — a circumstance which we consider to be self-explanatory.

We invite *GCN* to send to our office, at its convenience, a reliable representative of its choice. He or she may investigate the integrity and quality of our data and, if any discovery is made which could be regarded as inappropriate to our work, or as a threat to the safety, security or privacy of the members of our community, *GCN* is free to publish the findings of its investigation.

An article included in a regular mailing to our membership some time ago remarked that John Norman was attempting "to get money from you." Responding to this statement in a letter recently forwarded to us, Norman writes: "That's right on target!"

Does anything more need to be said?

Sincerely,
David J. Dyer
Vice President
Joint Venture
Chicago, Ill.

GCN's political perversion

Dear *GCN*:

Many thanks to Tracy Jackson for her letter (Vol. 16, No. 2) in response to Liz Galst's angry piece on the NAMES Project Quilt.

In denouncing Galst's insensitive and thoughtless criticism of the NAMES Project, Jackson also accurately exposes a bit of

political perversion that encompasses a significant amount of *GCN*'s content these days.

Frankly, I'm surprised more letters of outrage have not appeared, but I fear that many who would find Galst's attack reprehensible are no longer reading *GCN*. I, too, was initially reluctant to respond in these pages for fear of being dismissed as one of those white gay men with only one issue in my life who's managed to "dominate the agenda of the gay and lesbian movement." Since I don't rank high on what Jackson so aptly terms *GCN*'s "oppression meter," I don't have to be taken seriously.

By publishing "AIDS was Not the Only Issue in Cheryl's Life," *GCN* has further alienated an audience it should be embracing. *GCN* must come to terms with the fact that gay men are living and dying with AIDS. What clearly is a newly discovered politic and spirit for gay men must be greeted, nurtured and celebrated, not condemned. But condemned it is, since *GCN*'s journalistic ethic seems to be grounded in a hollow, rhetorical, out-of-touch politic that peevishly trashes and criticizes what does not meet the paper's omnipotent standard of political correctness. In its quest for inclusivity, *GCN* admirably connects all oppressions, but then creates a divisive hierarchy which gleefully places gay men, and more specifically white gay men, at the bottom of the list.

I hope in the coming years, if *GCN* still has a readership and AIDS continues to affect all of us, that the paper will help us all embrace one another in a loving manner rather than separate us within its pages. There is too much work to be done, and no time for *GCN* to see conflict as a goal in itself.

Sincerely,
Dan Mishkind
Boston, Mass.

"Nice Jewish Girls" predates work of New Jewish Agenda

Dear *GCN*:

I was pleased to see *GCN* cover the important gay/lesbian CR work that Adrienne Rich and Elly Bulkin are doing in the context of New Jewish Agenda. (See Vol. 15, No. 48) But the readers of *GCN* may also be interested in knowing some additional Jewish lesbian history. *Nice Jewish Girls: A Lesbian Anthology* (1982), predates the work of Agenda and was the first anthology to break the silence surrounding Jewish lesbian lives. Its focus on homophobia and anti-Semitism gave it strong resonance in both the Jewish and the lesbian communities and prepared the ground for Agenda's current work on homophobia. Among other important essays, *Nice Jewish Girls* contains "Split at the Root," which represents Adrienne's first grappling with the meaning of her Jewish identity.

I would also like to inform readers of *GCN* that the name of the Jewish lesbian group to which Adrienne refers is "Di Vilde Chayes," a group which grew out of the same ferment that produced *Nice Jewish Girls*. The members of that group were: Adrienne Rich, Melanie Kaye/Kantrowitz, Irena Klepfisz, Bernice Mennis, Nancy Bereano, Evelyn Torton Beck and, for a short time, Gloria Greenfield.

Since lesbian history is itself so often misrepresented and obscured in the "straight" press, it seems especially important that we not erase any part of our own history in our own journals.

Evelyn Torton Beck
Editor, *Nice Jewish Girls*:
A Lesbian Anthology
Washington, D.C.

MAIL AND SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

After October 1988, *GCN* subscribers will occasionally be receiving material from other lesbian and gay organizations. As always, our mailing list will remain strictly confidential; all mailings will be conducted and controlled by *GCN*. If you do not want to receive information from these non-profit community groups, please write to **GCN Promotions**, 62 Berkeley St., Boston, Mass. 02116.

Actor Sandy Campbell dies

By Michael Bronski
FIRE ISLAND, N.Y. — Sandy Montgomery Campbell, actor, writer and publisher, died suddenly at his home here June 26. Campbell was lovers with author Donald Windham since 1943, when Campbell was a freshman at Princeton University. As a young man Campbell was closely involved with an evolving American gay literary scene that included Windham, Truman Capote, Gore Vidal and Tennessee



Sandy Campbell (R) and Don Windham, 1948

Williams, among others. In the 1940s Campbell appeared on Broadway with Alfred Lunt and Lynn Fontanne in *I Know My Love* and as the young collector in the original production of Tennessee Williams' *A Street Car Named Desire*. He repeated that role in the 1956 production of the play which starred Tallulah Bankhead. He also appeared in the first New York production of Frank Wedekind's *Spring's Awakening*, a German expressionist drama noted for its inclusion and favorable portrayal of gay characters.

In addition to his acting, Campbell was also noted for his writing. In 1958 he published *B:29 Letters from Coconut Grove* based on his experiences with the Bankhead production of *Streetcar*. He also published a series of limited editions, mostly of letters to and from Donald Windham, including *E.M. Forster's Letters to Donald Windham*, *Tennessee Williams' Letters to Donald Windham*, and Windham's novel *Stones in the Hourglass*. In 1948 Campbell wrote for *Harper's Bazaar* what at that point was the most insightful profile of Nora Joyce, wife of James Joyce. Campbell's profile of Joyce is, in fact, a major source for the recently published biography of her.

Although he never published his own memoirs or journals, Sandy Campbell appears constantly in the personal writings of Donald Windham, Tennessee Williams, Gore Vidal, Truman Capote and others of that circle. Campbell is survived by his lover of 45 years, Donald Windham.

□ filed from Boston

Dykes to watch out for

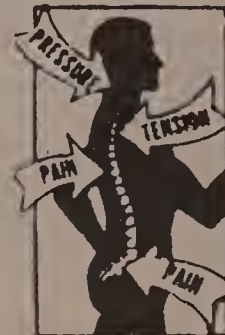


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The games begin August 4th and run thru September 3rd. Thursday thru Sunday. From 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. For information on being a contestant or donating game prizes call John or Toni at 536-0972.

Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
* 11 COMMUNITY FEUD Boston NOW (National Organization for Women)	* 12 FOLLYWOOD SQUARES To benefit The Gay State Gay and Lesbian Democratic Club	* 13 THE DATING GAME FOR MEN To benefit The Massachusetts Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus	* 14 BINGO Benefactor to be announced
18 A SUMMER DANCE PARTY For Women and Their Friends To benefit The Massachusetts Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus	19 THE NEWLYBED GAME FOR MEN Benefactor to be announced	20 COMMUNITY FEUD To benefit The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force	21 BINGO To benefit The Gay Fathers of Greater Boston

*Voter Registration August 11 thru 14, Sponsored by GBLGPA



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Ithaca

Continued from page 1

criticism of the *Journal's* coverage, Jacqueline Powers, editor of the *Journal*, said the paper was merely reporting the "facts" of the case in an "objective manner."

Nancy Bereano, a lesbian activist in Ithaca, disagreed. "It was a total violation of Brenner's right to privacy. The reporter sensationalized the issue by making the sex central and failing to put the story in the context of homophobic violence," she said.

At the June 27 rally, more than 200 people carrying signs that read "Homophobia Kills," and "We Want Responsible Journalism in Our Town" demonstrated in front of the *Journal*, expressing support for Brenner and demanding an apology for the story. "What Claudia has been through was horrible enough. Then the story came along clearly blaming the victim," said Clardy. "The community was looking for a rallying point to show our support for Claudia and all she has been through and the story provided that opportunity."

Clardy added, however, that before the coverage of the attack the *Journal* had been "very supportive" of the lesbian and gay community. "Even responsible journalists fall into the trap of cliched and dangerous thinking and must be held accountable. I think the community has made them be more aware of lesbian and gay issues," she said.

Carr will be tried in October in Adams County, Pennsylvania, on charges of first-degree murder, third-degree murder, attempted murder and aggravated assault. District Attorney Roy Keefer told *GCN* he will seek the death penalty.

Donations to the Claudia Brenner Fund can be sent care of Family and Children Services of New York, 204 North Cayuga Street, Ithaca, New York, 14850. □

GLAD

Continued from back page

s/m or pornography, transvestites, transsexuals, prostitutes, man/boy love advocates. We feared the fascist, terrorist attack of the new right. They began focusing on this idea of 'saving children.'"

Gyllensvard, in describing the success of the September One Coalition, said, "We flaunted ourselves and our diversity, and our resistance movement. We showed that radicals could win some points." But, she added, "What's happened to the sexual fringe now? How complicit are we? We have to open up this question...."

Hougen spoke at length about the "anti-sex" tenor of the new right backlash, both currently and in 1978. He said the issue of inter-generational sex is a central, not peripheral concern of the gay/lesbian movement, because homophobia is based on criticizing any sexual expression outside of procreational sex. "We do ourselves bad to apologize for our sexuality, or divide our community over [these issues]," Hougen said. "It was a politically-inspired battle in 1978, and it still is. We need to energize a political response to this oppression. The gay community must be united in opposition to the abuse of the rights of our community."

Hougen charged Gov. Michael Dukakis with promulgating the same tactics. He explained, "Dukakis has appealed to middle-of-the-roads by attacking gay people for being bad influences on kids." Several other panelists also commented on the connections between Dukakis' anti-lesbian/gay foster care policy and tactics used in 1978 to denounce the gay community.

Stone and Triantifillou broadened the discussion by speaking about feminist concerns that caused dissent among activists in 1978. Triantifillou described the burgeoning women's movement in the late '70s that inspired lesbians just fresh with the energy of coming out. She said some women were angered by the misogynist tones of the criticisms of Anita Bryant, and many were concerned that NAMBLA did not acknowledge the problem of child abuse. Similarly, Stone said she felt isolated in 1978 as a lesbian working with the gay male community. While she said some issues united the activism of men and women, Stone explained that others merely highlighted the divisions. "For example," Stone said, "I still think young people need to be protected from sexual abuse in some statutory way."

Despite efforts by some panelists to foster debate, the forum remained tidy and uncontentional. Differences in opinion were

treated with respect, and panel members did not directly challenge one another. Nor did they spend much time discussing divisions in the lesbian/gay community today; most panelists expressed optimism about community cohesiveness, particularly in rallying to combat the AIDS epidemic. The forum became more confrontative during the ques-

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An ad announcing Anita Bryant's visit to Boston, September 1, 1978

tion and answer session with the audience, though several panelists told *GCN* they were impatient when talk was largely diverted to discussion about the Dukakis campaign. Still, audience provocation clearly indicated lots of unsatiated interest in discussing the complexities of sexual politics.

The GLAD forum was at times a boisterous and chummy reunion. Shively offered a dramatic reading of vintage Allen Ginsburg, Ward reminisced about his idealism and Triantifillou joked about the gathering of old-timers. All participants seemed pleased by the large turn-out, particularly of younger lesbians and gay men interested in community history. According to Rizzo, the forum was one attempt by GLAD to assess ten years of struggle; she said the organization plans further offerings in the future.

Ward said, "There was a lot of energy and wonderful demonstrations in 1978. We didn't even have time to articulate a vision for GLAD when we started up. But we've endured. GLAD has maintained a modicum of integrity in a harsh world." □

New York stats

Continued from page 1

leave out people of color. He explained that many Black and Latino men are not "gay identified, but have sex with men. Many are bisexual and many have girlfriends. The Health Department completely left these people out of the equation." He added that San Francisco has many fewer people of color and that the gay community there is much more "out and cohesive" because the political climate is better. "With gay politicians and progressive leadership gays in San Francisco feel more comfortable. In New York, many are still in the closet."

By underplaying the incidence of disease among people of color, the new estimates jeopardize the strides that have been made in the city to combat AIDS in minority communities, said Harris. However, he said, the city, for the first time, recently agreed to fund a task force educational project aimed at Black gay men.

The Health Department's new estimates were announced the same day the State Comptroller's office released a report highly critical of the city's response to AIDS. The report accuses the city of "jeopardizing its entire health care system" by tailoring its estimates to fit the city's budget.

In response to the new figures, ACT UP/New York zapped City Health Commissioner Stephen Joseph at a July 27 speaking engagement and organized a major demonstration in front of the Health Department on July 28. Bill Bahlman, a member of ACT UP/New York, said the group carried signs stating, "Missing: 200,000 New Yorkers."

□ filed from Boston

— Paul David-Wadler also contributed to this story

A PWA MOVEMENT

By Miranda Kolbe

San Francisco's Healing Alternatives Foundation (formerly Healing Alternatives Buyers' Club) holds meetings every Tuesday night in the Metropolitan Community Church in the Castro. Those who attend exchange information about their treatments, get the latest news about trials of experimental drugs and buy health-related products. Many of the gay men who come know each other from other contexts: they may be friends, acquaintances, lovers, ex-lovers, or previously have done political work together.

Toward the end of a recent meeting, a man from New Orleans stood up. He said he had come to the discussion by chance, and was now feeling overwhelmed. "[AIDS] just isn't talked about like this where I'm from. Should I just pick up and move to San Francisco in hopes of a cure?" His question was met by grins, and a few shouts of "Cure?"

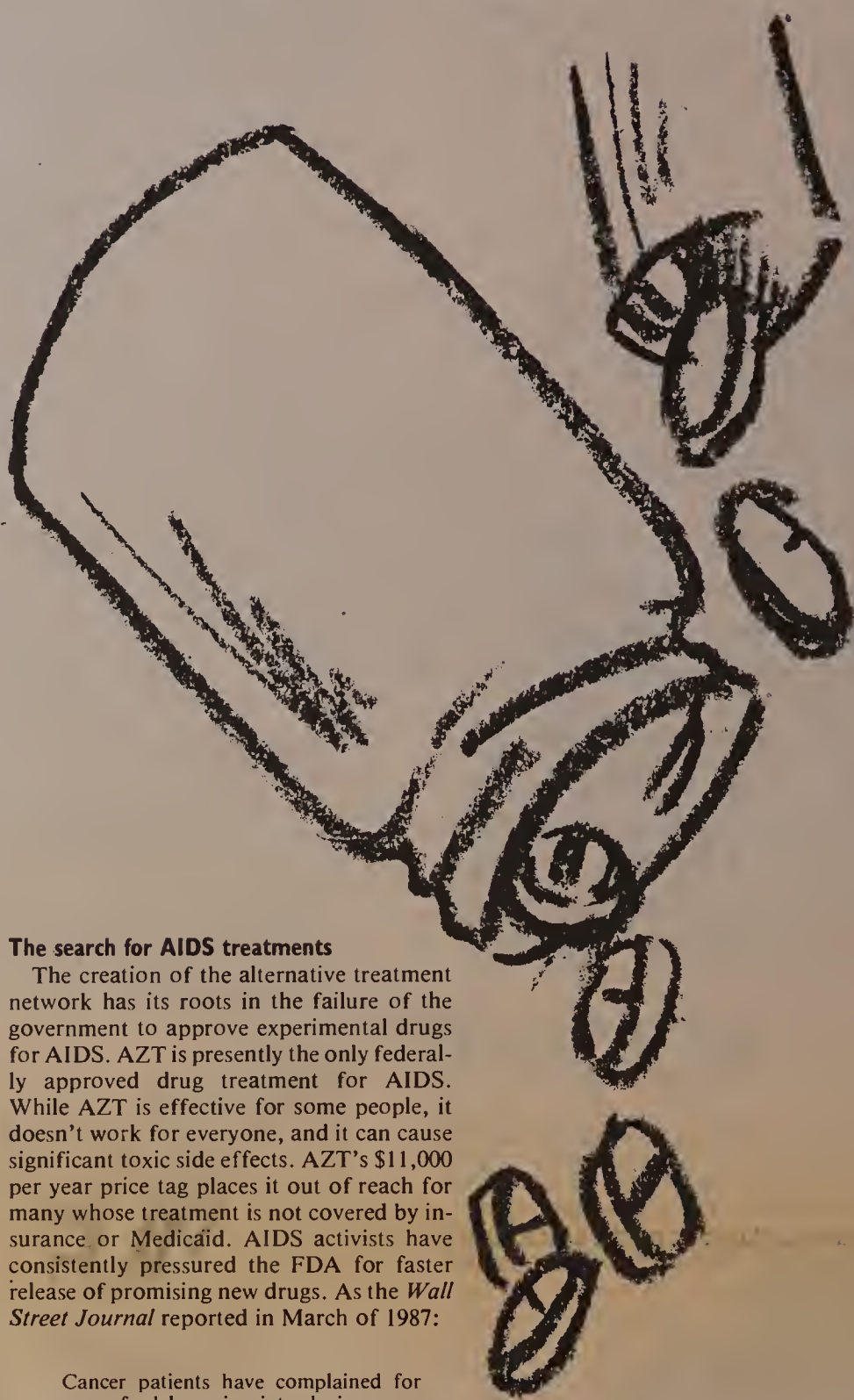
While a "cure" is clearly not what is being offered, the fact is that more and more people — PWAs/PWARCs, people who test positive for HIV (a virus thought by many to be a cause of AIDS) and others who believe they are at risk for AIDS — are turning to groups like S.F.'s Healing Alternatives Foundation for access to the information and treatments that do exist.

The burgeoning alternative treatments network in the U.S. now includes 14 buyers clubs — also known as guerrilla clinics — that act as not-for-profit clearinghouses for treatment information and products themselves. An underground network — which can be contacted through the buyers' clubs — helps people obtain treatments not available in the U.S. In addition, there are numerous newsletters that provide up-to-date information on treatment options. Project Inform, one of the oldest treatment information organizations, has an 800 hotline serving the entire country.

Clearly ahead of the medical establishment in terms of knowledge about alternative treatments, some PWAs have been in the position of having to educate their own doctors. Martin Delaney, co-director of Project Inform, comments that "AIDS has forever changed the doctor/patient relationship." For example, some doctors are beginning to acknowledge the wealth of information available within the PWA alternative treatment community. Tom Wilcox, director of the New York Health Group, a New York City buyers' club, whose customers are presently about 40 percent heterosexual and 60 percent gay says,

When we first started out, there were maybe three physicians in the metropolitan New York area who would even give us a simple nod of the head. Now, every day, the phone rings ten times, and there's a physician on the other end wanting advice. [From] me! I'm trained as an opera singer!

Despite the expertise of the PWA/PWARC community and quantity of alternative resources available within it, not all PWAs/PWARCs are able to make use of the network once they discover it. One of the biggest problems is the high cost of alternative treatments, which are generally not covered by insurance companies. Additionally, if one is sick, it can be difficult to keep up with new information. As Peter Esposito, co-founder of the Healing Alternatives Foundation, comments, "You really have to be motivated. I really feel sorry for people who are too tired, too unmotivated because of this disease.... Your ability to get out of bed and find out as much as you can about this disease [varies considerably]."



The search for AIDS treatments

The creation of the alternative treatment network has its roots in the failure of the government to approve experimental drugs for AIDS. AZT is presently the only federally approved drug treatment for AIDS. While AZT is effective for some people, it doesn't work for everyone, and it can cause significant toxic side effects. AZT's \$11,000 per year price tag places it out of reach for many whose treatment is not covered by insurance or Medicaid. AIDS activists have consistently pressured the FDA for faster release of promising new drugs. As the *Wall Street Journal* reported in March of 1987:

Cancer patients have complained for years of delays in introducing new therapies, but the AIDS victims [sic] were different. They simply wouldn't shut up. When news stories broke telling of therapeutic benefits of new drugs, AIDS patients [sic] went to Mexico and Canada to obtain ribavirin and isoprinosene. They started setting up their own "underground" clinical trials with unapproved drugs. They beat on Congress, the FDA [Food and Drug Administration], and a political system too busy with other matters to get off the dime on delays in drug approvals.

Despite this pressure, progress has been slow. In the fall of 1987, the FDA unveiled new "treatment IND [investigational new drug]" regulations that would permit the release of drugs to doctors treating PWAs well before the drugs were approved by the FDA. However, Project Inform's *PI Perspective* reported in April of 1988 that "not a single AIDS or ARC patient has received treatment under the FDA's much proclaimed new Treatment IND."

While the FDA is responsible for approving new drugs, it is not responsible for testing them. Another government agency, the National Institutes of Health (NIH), is responsible for oversight of the research on new drugs. Most of the research about AIDS falls under the responsibility of a subgroup of the NIH: the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID). NIH officials have blamed staff shortages and limited funding for the slow rate at which new drugs are approved. For example, in testimony before Congress in April, NIAID director Anthony Fauci said he had requested 127 workers to guide drugs through the NIH bureaucracy, but was granted only 11 new employees. Consequently, he was left with a staff of 22 to handle a \$300 million AIDS treatment research program.

Many AIDS activists have complained of a lack of funding directed at AIDS research activities, but the funding gap is not the sole,

As the government
drag its feet on
PWAs/PWARCs
are building alternative
buyers

the emphasis on finding a "magic bullet" cure overwhelm the less fantastic treatment advances made over the past few years. James continues:

The impressive worldwide mobilization around basic research, prevention, and other areas has glaringly omitted any serious mobilization or commitment to save the lives of those now infected or ill.... The major thrust of the scientists at Stockholm has been to find a cure through elegant molecular biology, maybe in five to ten years. There is no urgency or mobilization to test the dozens if not hundreds of treatment possibilities widely agreed to be available now — dozens of which could be tested within the next few months if only there were the will....

Taking treatments into our own hands

While testifying before Congress in April, NIAID director Fauci was asked by U.S. Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-S.F.) what he would do if he personally needed access to an unapproved treatment for AIDS. Fauci replied that he would get it "on the street" if necessary. Due to the paucity of approved treatments, it should come as no surprise that thousands of PWAs/PWARCs have found it necessary to try some of the more widely available alternative treatments. These include DNCB (a compound applied topically that has been used for Kaposi's sarcoma), ribavirin (an anti-viral treatment) and isoprinosene (an immune enhancer). It is estimated that about 3,000 people in San Francisco alone use aerosolized pentamidine, a promising treatment for pneumocystis pneumonia (PCP). San Francisco's Healing Alternatives Foundation has about 700 clients using a variety of alternative treatments each month, and those numbers are growing. The New York Health Group presently does between \$150-200 thousand per month in business. Ironically, so many people have tried experimental treatments that researchers have expressed fears that when clinical trials are announced for these drugs, they won't be able to recruit enough people who haven't already tried them to have a "clean" study.

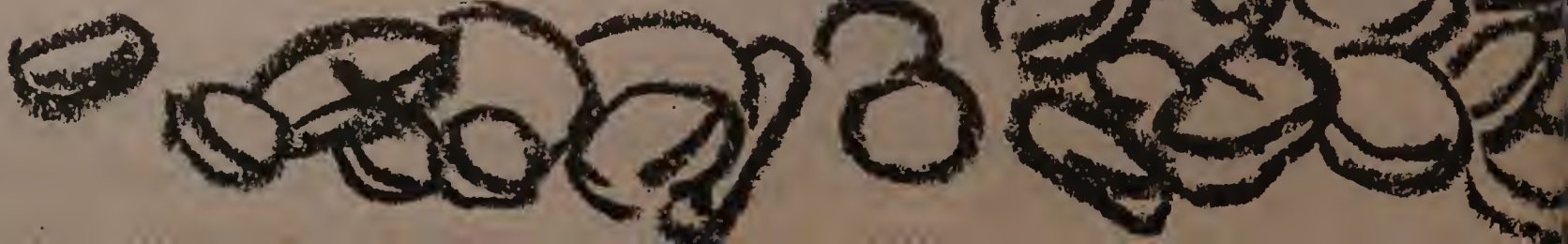
The availability of alternative treatments varies according to the kind of treatment. Drugs that are not licensed in the U.S. but are available elsewhere generally fall into the category of those most difficult to obtain. In the early days of the disease, people who were physically and economically able to do so travelled to buy HPA-23 (a drug shown to have some success in HIV inhibition, then available primarily in France) and other experimental drugs. Many more travelled to Mexico for ribavirin and isoprinosene, a common practice today. Over the last year, many PWAs have ventured to Japan to buy a promising anti-viral, dextran sulfate. Because of the expense of traveling to Japan, underground networks formed to sponsor one person's air travel to Japan; the

or primary reason so few drugs are approved. Whether a product is patentable, and therefore profitable for a pharmaceutical company, is a major determinant in the rate at which it will proceed along the NIH process. John James, publisher of *AIDS Treatment News*, has reported,

No major institution, government as well as private, will seriously consider a treatment solely on its medical and scientific (as opposed to commercial) merit. If it's a plant that anyone could pick, a food in general use, a common industrial chemical, or a health-food product, it won't be considered, no matter what the evidence.

The size of the pharmaceutical company developing the treatment also affects the speed at which it will be tested and approved. Because approval depends in part on testing large numbers of people, small companies with fewer resources to put into development take longer to fund the required studies.

And finally, whether a treatment's development could result in a major researcher reaping professional advancement and glory has an effect on how seriously a product is treated. At the recent International AIDS Conference in Stockholm, many progressive journalists and AIDS activists saw



OF GUERRILLA CLINICS

ent continues to AIDS treatments, cross the country native treatment groups

individual would buy a large supply of the drug and ship it back to the U.S.

Over the past few months, however, pharmacists in Japan have begun refusing to sell the drug in large quantities to Americans. Reasons for the limitation on sale of the drug, an over-the-counter medication used for blood disorders, are still unclear. Both the U.S. and Japanese governments say they are not responsible for the restrictions. There are rumors that the largest producer of the drug may be involved, but as yet there is no proof to back up this claim.

On July 23, at the International Lesbian and Gay Health Conference and AIDS Forum in Boston, FDA Commissioner Frank Young announced a new FDA policy which would allow people in this country to receive drugs from other countries through the mail for their personal use. This policy will presumably have a major impact on PWAs who are trying to obtain treatments unavailable in the U.S.

The second category of alternative treatments is drugs that are approved by the FDA for treatment of diseases other than AIDS. Aerosolized pentamidine is one such drug. (See *GCN*, June 12, 1988) In order to gain access to these drugs, PWAs must find a physician who is willing to prescribe the drug.

A third, and perhaps the largest category of alternative treatments, are those that do not technically fall into the category of "drugs." Treatments made from food products (such as AL 721 — made from egg lecithin), vitamins and nutritional supplements are the least-regulated, easiest-to-

obtain alternative treatments for AIDS. They are available at health food stores and PWA buyers' clubs, and can also be purchased from the manufacturers.

The alternative treatment decision-making process

First of all, decisions about which, if any, treatments to take are dependent on an individual's financial resources. For those who can pay for various treatments, activists agree that the best way to determine what may be useful is to work in concert with one's doctor and keep up with available medical information.

Project Inform's Delaney said caution is important when beginning a new treatment because "there is a lot of stuff being hustled out there right now that there simply isn't enough evidence to support.... [Manufacturers] label all kinds of shit 'immune this' and 'immune booster that,' and the fact is that there's no evidence for the majority of these products."

He also advised at least considering AZT.

While I'm the first to acknowledge ... the toxicity of AZT, the truth is that it's also helped a hell of a lot of people. I think it's a mistake for us to discourage people from at least trying it; and I think it's a big mistake for people who haven't tried it to say, "Oh, I'm going to take this natural, unproven remedy instead." You're risking your life at that point.

Most buyers' clubs try to assist people making treatment decisions not only by making information available, but by establishing criteria for products they sell. Project Inform provides information on products that meet the criteria of general availability, safety, and a "reasonable expectation of efficacy." Delaney said that over the three years that PI has been in existence, "we've only seen nine or ten products that meet that criteria."

Project Inform's list of products that meet its criteria is not the same as the lists provided by the buyers' clubs about products available. The criteria each buyers' club uses to choose its products also varies. For example, both the San Francisco and New York clubs test their products for toxicity, and offer products that they deem reasonably affordable. However, while the New York Health Group says they choose their products based on a "reasonable ex-

pectation of efficacy," San Francisco's Healing Alternatives Foundation, according to Esposito, simply offers "what people are using." Both clubs ask their clients to sign a release form exempting the club from liability for the person's health and the quality of the product they are taking.

PWA self-empowerment

Wilcox says he sees the growth of the alternative treatments movement over the past year as an example of

PWA self-empowerment: people taking charge of their own lives and being able, given the opportunity, to make their own decisions for their own health. Whether any of the products are actually effective is still down the pike. But the whole reality changed for people who felt they were doomed to a certain death. [They began] to be able to make a choice for their own health as an alternative to government-sanctioned AZT, or in conjunction with a government-sanctioned drug that everyone was very leery of. There is a whole psychological change in PWAs over the last year from resignation to, "Hey, I have a chance to fight." It's been really amazing to see. □

Buyer beware

What happens when your wallet is almost as empty as the well of hope?

By Christopher Wittke

When FDA Commissioner Frank Young showed up to deliver a speech at last month's Gay and Lesbian Health Conference in Boston, he was met by a bunch of rowdy AIDS activists determined to disrupt his speech. They interrupted Young all right, by disconnecting his microphone and holding wristwatches aloft to symbolize the lack of time to waste in conquering the AIDS epidemic. A handout from Project Inform, San Francisco's independent, not-for-profit drug research group, had anticipated, "In his address, Commissioner Young of the FDA will simply repeat the lies he has been telling for more than a year now. He said that his new regulations were working, that they were speeding drugs to the desperately ill. That is just not true."

But the folks from Project Inform also wisely anticipated that the catharsis from zapping a government lackey would not

counterbalance the feelings of futility that are inevitably brought up when you confront red tape head-on. So they chose to take on the Post-Demo Blues by holding a one-hour discussion about alternative drug treatments.

A flier distributed before the meeting boldly proclaimed "Managing HIV (AIDS-related illness) *Learn How!*" Since I generally feel defeated by every aspect of the epidemic (the personal, the political) it seemed like a potentially inspiring way to spend an hour.

Project Inform acts as a sort of clearing house for AIDS treatment information. They are one of the first groups of AIDS activists to speak of "managing" an HIV infection; in other words they don't buy that a positive result on an HIV antibody test is a good reason to lie down and die.

Martin Delaney was the first speaker from the Project at this meeting and he immediately apologized for the fact that the generally hours-long presentation had to be crammed into the 60 minutes allotted the panel. In his resonant, soap-opera-leading-man speaking voice he told the assembled

crowd of about 100 men and women that he was not going to offer the "Sorry we don't have much hope, but we feel really bad for you" rap that Young tried to deliver before he was so righteously interrupted. Instead, Project Inform wanted us to know that there actually was hope, that AIDS is not an untreatable entity.

Delaney started with what he admitted was "the depressing part." A graph projected on the screen sketched the results of a San Francisco study of 84 patients originally enrolled at the San Francisco City Clinic to gather information on Hepatitis B. After going back and examining frozen sera collected from these men, it was somehow "proven" that almost all people who test positive for HIV antibodies will eventually go on to develop full-blown AIDS. I've hated that study since the first time I heard about it; I

didn't want to trust anything that seemed so hopeless. And I figured if this Delaney guy bought into that line of thought then I'd just sit back and take everything he said with a major grain of salt. Call me Pollyanna.

Apparently Delaney always hated the results of that study, too, because he admitted to looking at it from every possible angle to debunk it. He said every scientist in the lesbian/gay community had tried to do the same...but that it really does look like the results are valid. By the end, I felt like Delaney was saying "Trust me on this; it stinks but it's right." I'm still an unconvinced lay person (who, incidentally, usually trusts too easily when I'm told I should) and I still hate that study.

"But," he said, indicating that the depressing part was over, "HIV is a treatable infection, and if detected early enough may actually be survivable."

"Uh-oh," I thought, "early detection." That means testing, and I know this guy's from the West Coast where having the test is virtually a chic thing to do, but this wouldn't be the first California trend I've rejected. I don't have much use for firewalking either."

Delaney expressed concerns about civil rights violations which could easily occur in a testing situation, and it relieved my apprehension a bit. He spoke of interventions, a word I hadn't quite considered in the hopeless miasma of the AIDS epidemic. He explained that it's possible to stop HIV in its path, not allowing it to do any more damage than it's done up until that point, and offer-

Continued on page 11

Commission report

Continued from page 3

ticular problems of HIV-infected women, including a lack of research on HIV in women, and the denial of women's access to many clinical trials and experimental treatments. The report calls for removing these obstacles, and for addressing infected women's need for child care, transportation, and social and financial support. Commission member Kristine Gebbie noted that HIV-related education campaigns thus far have largely failed to provide women with useful information, and that many women infected with HIV lack insurance or other resources for health care. She said that child care responsibilities often prevent women from addressing their own health needs, and that they are especially likely to avoid seeking medical attention until it is too late. Gebbie said, "The Commission was unable to come to terms with a comprehensive fix for those problems."

The report acknowledges the existence of homophobia without using the words "gay" or "lesbian." It notes, "Some homosexual men experience societal and personal rejection, loneliness, guilt, self-hatred, and a loss of self-worth," and recommends, "Meaningful relationships that exist with friends and the non-traditional family of the homosexual man must be recognized, so that these individuals may be included in care decisions if the patient so requests." The report stops short of addressing the roots of homophobia, however, and fails to recommend lesbian/gay rights legislation or the repeal of sodomy laws.

Similarly, the Commission acknowledges "the problem of minority access to health care" without addressing the racism at the root of this problem, or offering any recommendation for its solution. Craig Harris, of the N.Y. Minority AIDS Task Force, said, "People of color with AIDS face both kinds of discrimination [based on race and on having AIDS]. It's not enough to just target discrimination based on antibody status."

In an introductory section, the report identifies poverty and lack of opportunity as the roots of drug-related HIV infection. It states, "If the attraction of the drug economy is to be decreased, then productive alternatives for developing earning potential are necessary." In its actual recommendations, however, the report fails to acknowledge this basic problem, and focuses instead on enforcement of drug laws.

"The report has a number of glaring omissions," Busby said. As an example, he noted its failure to mention condoms or discuss safer sex. He also noted that the report mentions financial barriers to effective health care and the unwillingness of drug companies to develop treatments that may not be profitable. "But it fails to acknowledge the underlying problem of a health care system based on profit, rather than people's needs."

The report represents the final product of a year's activity on the part of the Commission, including over 40 hearings and testimony from over 600 people. During its year of existence, the Commission faced several internal and external challenges. The original Commission, chaired by Eugene Mayberry, was largely hand-picked by Gary Bauer, domestic policy adviser to President Reagan, according to Bill Bahlman, a New York ACT UP activist who followed the Commission closely.

According to Bahlman, members were chosen largely on the basis of their conservative political credentials. For example, William Walsh is the nephew of Education Secretary William Bennett, and directs an organization funded by pharmaceutical companies. He serves as a health policy adviser to Reagan. Richard DeVos, founder and president of the Amway Corporation, a multi-millionaire, was the largest single contributor to the 1984 Republican campaign. Colleen Conway-Welch, a nurse, is co-chair of the Southern Republican Leadership Conference. Cory Servaas, editor and publisher of the *Saturday Evening Post*, is a personal of the Reagans, according to Bahlman. Her husband was the Indiana chair for the Robertson campaign. Penny Pullen, an Illinois legislator, has sponsored several repressive bills in that state restricting the rights of PWAs. She was the 1984 chair of Special Groups for Reagan. Theresa Crenshaw specializes in the "evaluation and treatment of sexual dysfunction," according to the report. According to Bahlman, she is close to homophobic Republican U.S.

Rep. William Dannemeyer, of California, and "brought in some of the worst of the wacko witnesses, including Dannemeyer." Bahlman noted that Walsh, DeVos, Servaas, Pullen, and Crenshaw voted against the anti-discrimination recommendations.

Other Commission members include John Creedon, chairman of Metropolitan Life Insurance Co.; Dr. Burton Lee, a cancer researcher and friend of George Bush; Dr. Frank Lilly, the Commission's only openly gay member; and John Cardinal O'Connor of New York. New Commission members as of last fall include Dr. Beny Primm and Kristine Gebbie, who are quoted in this article, and the Commission chair, retired Navy Admiral James Watkins.

The change in membership appears to have been a result of both internal and external challenges. According to Bill Rubenstein, an attorney with the AIDS and Civil Liberties Project of the American Civil Liberties Union, original director Eugene Mayberry was an "organizational disaster." Commission members actually wrote him letters asking him to step down, according to Rubenstein. In September of last year, he resigned, and Admiral Watkins was appointed to replace him.

According to Schatz, Watkins "deserves the credit for anything good the Commission did. He's intelligent and cares about the issues." According to Bahlman, Watkins was responsible for appointing Polly Gault, the Commission's executive director, and other staff members. Bahlman called the staff "the brains and heart and soul of the Commission."

In October of 1987, Rubenstein and the ACLU, on behalf of NAPWA, the National Minority AIDS Council (NMAC), the American Public Health Association (APHA), and Michael Callen, an individual PWA, brought suit against the Commission. The suit (NAPWA vs. Reagan) charged the Commission with violating the Federal Advisory Commission Act, which requires that groups affected by an advisory commission be represented on the commission. After the suit was filed, two conservative members of the Commission resigned, and were replaced with Gebbie and Primm. The appointment of these two members satisfied members of NMAC and APHA, who withdrew from the suit. ACLU and NAPWA continued the suit, demanding representation for PWAs. Although they did not succeed in forcing the appointment of a PWA to the Commission, the Commission did recommend PWA representation on future advisory panels.

Considering the Commission's composition, the report is "better than we would have expected," said Schatz, of NGRA. Beck, of NAPWA, said he believes the positive parts of the report came about as a result of testimony from people with AIDS and AIDS activists: "When you spend a lot of time listening to PWAs and other AIDS experts, you're compelled towards certain conclusions." Busby said, "Even if you're a Reagan ideologue, and someone speaks the truth, it's hard to ignore it." He added, "Many of the report's best elements are directly related to ACT UP members' testimony."

Several activists, while expressing reserved approval for the Commission's work, criticized the Reagan administration for the continuing slowness of its response to the epidemic. Beck said, "Until the day I die I will remember how slowly the mainstream has responded to AIDS. Until the day I die I will believe that it is because I am a faggot and it's mostly faggots who have AIDS." □

Oregon

Continued from page 1

QUACers picketed the *Oregonian* on June 30, protesting that newspaper's failure to cover Portland's annual Lesbian and Gay Pride March (See *GCN*, Vol. 15, No. 49). QUAC staged another demonstration at the *Oregonian* for July 14, to challenge heterosexism in the paper's news, editorial, and advertising policies.

Despite differences in style and philosophy, OFF and QUAC seem willing to cooperate in the effort to save the governor's executive order. The stakes are high, since the outcome of the November vote is likely to have a large effect on ongoing efforts to pass a comprehensive gay rights bill in the Oregon Legislature.

QUAC can be reached at P.O. Box 15117, Portland, OR 97215, (503) 287-7624. OFF can be reached at P.O. Box 2397, Portland, OR 97208, (503) 233-9079. □

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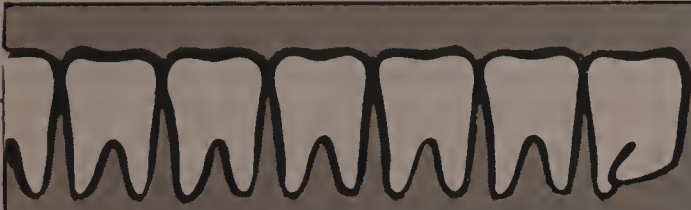
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Continued from centerspread

ing a chance to rebuild the immune system. (Of course, this goes on the assumption that HIV is the cause of AIDS, a belief some skeptics argue with — and I try to be skeptical.)

He spoke of the need to maintain good general health, and I could think of no argument with that. He mentioned holistic therapy without using New Age jargon, so I even trusted him there. He spoke compellingly of anti-viral therapy and immune boosting therapy and preventative treatment for opportunistic infections. I liked the idea of preventive treatments, something rarely discussed even in the gay media, let alone in the mainstream.

After a while, even I, the anti-testing kind of guy that I am, was seeing the logic in the Project Inform idea that said “Hey, do you wait until your syphilis infection has progressed to dementia before you get some treatment? No!” And since we were about to look at a list of promising treatment protocols I had all but resolved to get tested.

It suddenly seemed so simple. I’d just get the test and surround myself with supportive friends, and if the result was positive I’d work on my general health, and do holistic things, and go on those medicinal therapies, and I’d keep monitoring my T-cells and p24 antigens and beta-2 microglobulin (these are all tests one should have regularly and monitor carefully for successful HIV maintenance, according to Delaney. I really have no idea what most of them are, maybe it’s in the longer presentation.) I considered the fact that it would also be a relief to finally know for sure. No more anxiety, no more late night (and mid-day) panics. I told myself, “If I’m positive, I’ll fight the educated fight. I won’t give up, and I won’t continue down this unsure path I’ve been on since I first heard of AIDS, assessed my risk and permanently crossed my fingers.”

We looked at treatment strategies, like drugs that may do such specialized work as inhibiting T-cell to T-cell infection (dextran sulfate) and various anti-viral combinations. Delaney gave his pro-AZT rap that said “This works for some people and it’s just not worth dismissing it without trying it. Even in half doses.” We looked at lists of sources and side effects, and the monthly costs for the kind of drug therapies needed for successful HIV maintenance....

AND THE MONTHLY COSTS TOTALLED WELL OVER \$1200. I thought “Well, that counts me out.” Of course, if you’re lucky enough to have insurance (and I am) they generally don’t pay for drugs that aren’t approved by the FDA. Only AZT is approved and truthfully at over \$750 a month it is the most expensive drug discussed. Joe Brewer, who joined Delaney at the front of the room, said that AZT has surfaced on the black market since many people realized they only need to take half the dosage prescribed for them and they can sell the rest. “Many professionals buy their AZT on the black market so it doesn’t show up on their insurance,” Brewer said, implying that if AZT did show up in their medical records, insurance companies might cancel these professionals’ policies. And I thought, “I guess he means, since I’m not a professional, it’s cool if my insurance company sees a few dozen blood tests (which would rarely be covered anyway) or an AZT ’scrip come across their computers.” Then I started to get even more depressed, thinking about the large numbers of people who are completely uninsured. Then I realized that I might as well be uninsured for all the good insurance will do me.

Delaney gave a sympathetic nod to those of us who might find the high cost of good health prohibitive. “Every drug company, from the little slimy companies to the big slimy companies, has jacked the price of medications on every potential treatment for AIDS. And as long as our medical profession is tied into the profit system, it will probably continue.” Later he said there was reason to believe that these high costs may begin to drop in the next 18 months, although the reason for that wasn’t clear. And was this supposed to be encouraging coming from a man who had just finished telling us of the need for early detection and intervention? How can you sit around for a year and a half and *wait* to intercept an illness in its earliest stages?

But I really thought I was going to lose my marbles when Delaney said, “Yes, this is very expensive. It might mean having to get a roommate you’d rather not have, or putting off buying that new car this year, or

borrowing money from your family....” I thought, “This reality is so far removed from mine I can’t possibly glean any hope from it.” NEW car? I haven’t had enough money to get my bicycle fixed and it’s been broken since last summer. I scrape money for a subway pass every month and already owe back rent. I have \$46 in my checking account and \$6 in savings. And he’s saying I may have to hold off a year on that Mercedes so that I can save my health?

In truth, Martin Delaney and Project Inform are not the baddies in this situation. I’m glad they let people know about the benefits of drugs that the federal government can’t seem to be bothered with testing. We probably wouldn’t know about aerosolized pentamidine if it weren’t for this group. No, Project Inform isn’t to blame; Medicine and Insurance-for-profit are on the frontlines of that camp as far as I can tell. (And let’s not forget government indifference.) I’m also surprised at myself for ever believing I’d actually find hope just because the discussion had been promoted as offering it. Hadn’t the AIDS epidemic taught me that simple fact ages ago?

But how are we going to deal with this mess? Should every penny earned in the name of an “AIDS Benefit” go directly towards funding this kind of treatment? How does capitalism absorb the fact that this sort of medical care is cost-prohibitive to almost everyone? (Hint: it doesn’t.)

And the most immediate question for me (and for everyone who might benefit from this preventative medicine): what am I supposed to do if I can’t afford to “stop my syphilis infection before I progress to dementia?” Wait to see what happens in 18 months or so, I guess. Until then I’ll just keep my fingers crossed.

Project Inform can be reached at 347 Delores, Suite 301, San Francisco, CA 94110. Or you can call them toll free at 1-800-822-7422. Martin Delaney recommended leaving a message requesting the Project’s information packet on the answering machine after regular business hours because they are often swamped with calls throughout the day. □

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Safer Sex and Drug Use Guidelines

Assessing individual risk for AIDS and other illnesses is the first step towards using safer sex and drug use guidelines. Only you and your partner(s) can decide how much risk is acceptable — take stock of your sexual and drug use histories.

Be aware that the highest concentrations of HIV (the virus widely thought to cause AIDS) are found in blood and semen. The most common routes of HIV transmission are through sharing needles and unprotected anal or vaginal intercourse.

GCN's guidelines come from a wide variety of sources aimed at various communities concerned about the AIDS epidemic and health in general. We want to confront the prevailing "no sex is best" attitude and present an approach that is as sex-positive as possible.

Information for gay male, lesbian and bisexual communities

Safer sex can include: massage, hugging, kissing, erotic talk, phone sex, masturbation (solo, pairs and groups), using your own vibrators, dildos or other sex toys and s/m, butch/fem role-playing, fantasy scenes, bondage and other activities that do not involve the exchange of semen or blood (including menstrual blood).

Do not allow a partner's semen or blood (including menstrual blood and blood drawn from piercing, cutting or shaving) to enter your vagina, anus, mouth or breaks in your skin.

Use condoms for fucking (anal and vaginal intercourse), for licking/sucking penises and for covering dildos and other sex toys. Use water-based lubricants. Use latex barriers (dental dams or other plastic/latex materials) between the genital area and mouth when licking/sucking cunts and assholes. Be especially careful to avoid the exchange of menstrual blood. Using nonoxynol-9 or other spermicides with condoms and latex barriers may add extra protection.

For finger-fucking or fisting (anal or vaginal

penetration with fingers or hands), use latex gloves or finger cots. Use water-based lubricants.

Alternative insemination may put you at risk. Be sure to discuss risk for AIDS with potential donors or sperm bank.

Be aware that some risk of exposure to immune-suppressing infections (such as mono and amoebiasis) may be associated with rimming (anal-oral contact) — use a latex barrier. Risk may also be associated with watersports (urine) or feces in the mouth, rectum or in open cuts. If you share dildos, vibrators or other sex toys, use condoms or clean toys with hydrogen peroxide.

Your body's ability to fight all disease, including AIDS and its related illnesses (such as Kaposi's Sarcoma and pneumocystis carinii pneumonia), may be benefitted by general good health — good nutrition, lots of rest, exercise and nonabuse of alcohol, poppers and other drugs.

If you use IV drugs, follow the guidelines below.

Intravenous drug use

Do not share works (needles, syringes, droppers, spoons, cottons or cookers).

Do not re-use needles; use fresh cottons each time.

If you must share or re-use your works, clean them as follows: dip needle and works into 100 percent bleach, draw up and release three times, dip needle and works into water, draw up and release three times (in an emergency, rubbing alcohol, vodka or wine can also be used). As an alternative, boil works in water for at least fifteen minutes. Use a fresh solution each time you clean your works.

Resource phone numbers

National AIDS Hotline: 1 (800) 342-7514
AIDS Action Committee (AAC), Boston: (617) 437-7733
AIDS Action Committee (AAC) IV Drug Use Taskforce, Boston: (617) 437-4200
Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC), New York: (212) 807-6655
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WOMAN OF POWER: "A Magazine of Feminism, Spirituality, and Politics," an inspiring international quarterly publication. Subscriptions \$22 for 4 issues; singles issues \$6 plus \$1 postage. P.O. Box 827, Cambridge, MA 02238, telephone (617) 625-7885. (ex)

ON OUR BACKS, the sexual entertainment magazine for lesbians, is 48 pages of erotic fiction, features, plus timely sexual advice and news columns. We are quarterly, national, unique and provocative. \$15/yr sub or \$5 current issue to: On Our Backs, PO Box 421916, San Francisco, CA 94142. (ex)

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A Journal of Irreverent Feminism. Quarterly of commentary, analysis, reviews, cartoons & humor by and for women who agree to disagree—who are still political, but not necessarily correct. Sample \$1.50; sub \$6; more if/less if. LesCon, 584 Castro, #263G, SF, CA 94114. (16.--)

GUARDIAN:Independent radical newsweekly. Covers Gay, women and minority struggles and international progressive movements. Special offer—4 issues FREE. Write Guardian, Dept GCN, 33W 17th St. NY, NY, 10011. (ex)

off our backs
Celebrating 15 years of radical feminist journalism. We bring feminist national/international news analysis and reviews each month. \$11 year, 11 issues. (\$15 for contributing subs) \$20 institutional fee. Sample-\$3 for 3 issues! Write 'off our backs' Dept GCN, 1841 Columbia Rd. NW, Room 212 Washington, DC 20009. (ex)

Prisoners Seeking Friends

TO ALL THOSE, IN & OUT OF PRISON,
WHO FIGHT AGAINST THEIR BONDAGE.

Alexander Berkman, *Prison Memoirs of an Anarchist*



BLACK GAY MALE PRISONERS!

A very wonderful book of writing and visual art (non-pornographic) is being offered to you FREE (limited supply!) by the Other Countries Collective of Black gay men. Write now to: Prison Book Collective, 92 Green St, Jamaica Plain MA 02130.

HEY THERE POETS & ARTISTS!!
(I include those of you too modest or unconfident to call yourselves 'artist' or 'poet'! OK, how about scribblers and doodlers?) GCN can always use a fresh supply of your drawings, poems, and whatever else gets out your feeling. We do a big poetry spread once a year and we ALWAYS need drawings (black & white, about as wide as one of these columns). You can think of them as your gift to us in return for our gift to you of this paper. Don't worry if they're not 'professional'. We're looking for inspiration, not technique.

The 'Prisoners Seeking Friends' space will be a much safer space to play in if both insiders and outsiders will let me know when someone is jerking them around (including Christian-guilt-trippers, serious money seekers (please don't be upset at a \$5-10 request from a prisoner who very possibly has NO access to money and BASICS are not always furnished by the state).



For years now I've been super interested in corresponding and building a relationship with a Gay companion of the revolutionary community (socialist-communist). There's much to be discussed regarding the Gay Liberation Movement. There are many ideas to be exchanged. Let's write each other. Albert Chui CLARK, 79909, Camp J Shark 1-R-13, Angola LA 70712.

I'm an HIV carrier and would like to write someone who could understand some of what I am going thru. HIV has changed my view of life and in some ways made me a better, more serious, person. If you'd like to talk confidentially, sometimes it's easier to talk with a stranger. Marvin NOWELL, 427154, Box 16, Lovelady TX 75851.

YES! I would LIKE to get more copies of GCN! You said I could send a penpal ad too so here it is; I'm a Gay Black male (actually Black, Indian and Italian), with a good sense of humor, interested in reading, poetry, gay stuff, and political issues. I would like to write a friend. Kirk O. WILCOX, PO Box 8249, Cranston RI 02920



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Serious Libra with a quick sense of humor would like a friend. I like poetry, sci-fi, and being real. Take a chance. Deb DAVIS, 18449 Arn 1, 1479 Collins Ave, Marysville OH 43040.

I'm 26, born under the sign of Leo, very free spiritual individual in search of a submissive understanding and fun loving woman. I'm in here for forgery. Please write. Lynetta PARKER, CLU N8 Cell 7, 2800 Gravier St, New Orleans LA 70119.



Robert Jude Ryan, who has been writing inspiring and saucy letters to the Prisoner Project for several years now, and who is clearly a thoughtful & open gay man, will be getting out of prison (hopefully) this Fall. He has worked with animals and will need help finding a place to work and live in New Jersey. If you can help out, please drop him a line at: Robert Jude RYAN, 79022, CN861 6-right, Trenton NJ 08625.

MEREL STEPHERSON, HELLO! You will always be my best friend. Everything is still GO! Love, Maggie

I am (was) a nurse, and would like to write a sincere, caring person, who understands that we aren't all perfect. To share personal thoughts. Please write. James VANCE, 97147-098, PO Box 4000, Springfield MO 65808.

Hi! I'm getting close to getting out and would like to make some connections in the free world. Just looking for friendship. Adrian 'Star' PRICE, 35588, PO Box 2, Lansing KS 66043.

Hello out there! I'm seeking a penpal friend. My hobbies are music, acting, and body building. I'm lonely and will answer all letters. Steve L. WILLIAMS, C-38287 (F3-14-225), 480 Alta Rd, San Diego CA 92179.

I'm interested especially in meeting born HERMAPHRODITES, for friendship. I'm a Libra, sensual and romantic. I work in the computer field, play guitar and sing. Philip CARISTO, Box 1059—2B-P, Santa Fe NM 87504.

Gay male would like to correspond with other open-minded males or females for long lasting friendship. Interests are Karate, chess, meeting new people and making new friends. Michael KINNEY, 066571 (1655), PO Box 1100, Avon Park FL 33825.

I'm 30, from NYC, nickname 'Pooh' and would like to correspond with sincere individuals who would like to be friends. I have a really nice tan (I'm ebony!) and like to show it! Michael TITTENSON, 03960-054, Box 4000, Springfield MO 65808.



I am gay and would very much like to write some other gay man so would you please help me in getting my penpal ad in the paper. James SPRUILL, 087061 (1062), 1150 SW Allapattah Rd, Indiantown FL 34956.

DELMAR RAY BALLARD, please contact Ricky Maddix, 39404, Box 7, Moberly MO 65270.

I'm a Black, bisexual, Michael Jackson fanatic, and love to write, dance and have sex. Please write. Galen (Gale) SHAVERS, 150433, Box 7 (1B-123), Moberly MO 65270.

Body builder, like to read GCN, would like to also correspond with someone. John CARROLL, 107499, Rt 1 Box 207-C, Lawrenceville VA 23868

Black male looking to hear from transsexuals, Queens and bisexuals of all races. Trying to establish life long friends and a sincere love affair. Willing to relocate upon release. Open minded and hard worker. Venitrice LONG, 152456, (4-D-24); 1012 W. Columbia, Farmington MO 63640.

Pamela Luster, I miss you dearly. Please write me. You promise you would. Love, Buck [Farrell Jones, 33554, (4-D-24), 1012 W. Columbia, Farmington MO 63640.

Bisexual male searching for penpals to help pass the time away, and possibly more. Please write to find out more. Timothy POPE, Box 15749, 3405 Deer Park Dr SE, Salem OR 97310.

Wanted: a strong, exhibitionistic, slightly freaky attractive pecker-packer is looking for penpals. I'm a good person, who loves oldie goodies, writing and sailing. Barry EWELL, 058939, Box 1500 (55), Cross City FL 32628.

Calendar

12 Friday ☐ Celebrate Ten Percent Revue's 500th performance! Post Office Cabaret, 303 Commercial Street, P'town. Info: (508) 487-2879.

Please note: Calendar listings must be received by the Monday before the week of the event. Photos with listings are encouraged.

6 Saturday

Boston ☐ **Living With AIDS Theatre Project** presents a workshop every Saturday to collect the experiences and stories of those connected in any way with the AIDS crisis. The goal is to create a theater music piece based on the workshop material. No performance experience necessary. Club Cabaret, 209 Columbus Ave. 10:30am.

Northampton ☐ **SHELIX** meeting, discussion of "Erotic Piercing: How, Why, Safely." New women welcome. A New England woman-to-woman S/M support group. 8pm. Info: 413/584-7616.

Boston ☐ Boston Area Women's Self-Defense Collective offers **Women's Self-Defense Classes** for women of all ages and abilities. Meets Wednesday evenings and Saturday afternoons in the South End. Info: 574-9433.

Boston ☐ Comité de Mujeres Puertorriquenas Miriam Lopez Perez holds "**Encuentro de Mujeres Latinas, Massachusetts.**" UMass/Boston, 100 Arlington St. 9am-4pm. Info: 524-4145.

Boston ☐ All-day memorial vigil in remembrance of the bombing of **Hiroshima**. Sponsored by Boston Mobilization for Survival, Women's Int'l. League for Peace and Freedom, and Women for Racial and Economic Equality. Park St. Station. 8:15am-4pm. Info: 354-0008.

Gaie Head, NH ☐ **Chiltern Mountain Club** hikes Gale Head. Overnight at 13 Falls Campsite. Moderately easy. Info: Michael 617/787-0428 or 207/883-6934.

Boston ☐ **Jeopardy** to benefit Act Up-Boston. Part of Club Cabaret's "Summer Games, a Month of Benefits." Moon Shine, 209 Columbus Ave. 8-10pm. \$4 Info: 536-0972.

Provincetown ☐ Singer/songwriter **Erica Wheeler** live every Thu., Fri., Sat. evening at Different Ducks. 5-7pm. Info: 508/487-9648.

Boston ☐ New Ehrlich Theatre presents Joe Orton's **Entertaining Mr. Sloane**. Last performance. 539 Tremont St. 8pm. \$13. Info: 482-6316.

Boston ☐ **Gay Boston**, a weekly television show with host Candace Van Auken, this week features Ronnie Bookman and Phoebe Otis, duo performers; Stuart Sheldon, piano. BNN-TV, channels A3 and A8. 7:30pm.

7 Sunday

Boston ☐ **Urania**, Boston area S/M support group for lesbian and bisexual women, has an afternoon picnic. Info: 395-4849.

Boston ☐ **Lesbian Lawyers and Legal Workers** Boston Harbor Cruise/Islands Picnic. New members welcome. Info: Carol 483-3685.

Boston ☐ **Boston's Other Voice** special guest chiropractor Tom O'Connor discusses his book, "Living With AIDS, Reaching Out." With host Peter Stickel. WROR 98.5FM. 11:30pm.

Jamaica Plain ☐ Boston Committee to **Free Sharon Kowalski potluck picnic**. In celebration of Sharon's 32nd birthday. Gather at the main entrance of the Arnold Arboretum at 2pm.

Boston ☐ Metro Healing presents **ongoing healing group** for PWAs and all those wishing to be of support. Meets every Sunday. Metropolitan Health Club aerobics room, 209 Columbus Ave. 7:30-9:30pm. Info: Brian 267-1154, Joseph 357-6926.

8 Monday

Cambridge ☐ **Lesbian Rap** topic: "Mother transference in relationships." The Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 8-10pm. Free. Info: 354-8807 (TTY/voice).

Boston ☐ **Women's Rugby Club** summer practice every Monday and Wednesday, 6-8pm. No experience necessary. Info: Mel 536-4943, message 932-5401.

10 Wednesday

Boston ☐ **The National Coalition for Black Lesbians and Gays** (NCBLG) calls an open meeting to decide whether to form a Boston chapter of NCBLG. Office of Youth Business Initiative, 312 Stuart St. 7pm. (See News Note, p. 2 for more info.)

Boston ☐ **Women's Self-Defense Classes**. See 8/6 listing.

Boston ☐ **Women's Rugby Club**. See 8/8 listing.

Cambridge ☐ **Lesbian Al-Anon** with childcare. The Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 6:30-8pm. Free. Info: 354-8807 (TTY/voice).

Cambridge ☐ **Lesbian Partners of Incest Survivors**. The Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 8:15-9:15pm. Free. Info: 354-8807 (TTY/voice).

Boston ☐ **Boston NOW** Reproductive Rights Task Force Meeting. 971 Commonwealth Ave. 7pm. Free. Info: 782-1056.

Worcester ☐ Massachusetts Dept. of Public Health presents a performance of "**AIDS: It's No Joke**," aimed at inner-city adolescents. Downtown location TBA. Time TBA (a.m.). Info: 727-0368, 727-0049.

11 Thursday

Boston ☐ **GCN's production night**. All welcome. Proofreading starts at 5pm. Paste-up after 7pm. 62 Berkeley St., near Arlington & Back Bay T-stops. Info: **GCN**, 426-4469.

Boston ☐ **Boston Lesbian and Gay Pride Planning Committee** meets. New members welcome. 7pm. Info: 232-1716.

Boston ☐ **Quilting Bee**. If someone you know has died of AIDS, his or her name belongs in the NAMES Project Quilt. It is not too late to make a panel to be added to the quilt prior to its display in Washington this October. Arlington St. Church, Boylston St. entrance. 6-9pm. Info: 451-9003.

Provincetown ☐ Starting today, **Kate Clinton** appears at Post Office Cafe, 303 Commercial St. Daily through 8/31. 5pm. Info: 508/487-3892.

Cambridge ☐ **Lesbians Choosing Children**, with childcare. The Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 7:30-9:30pm. Free. Info: 354-8807 (TTY/voice).

Boston ☐ "**Community Feud**" to benefit Boston NOW. Part of Club Cabaret's "Summer Games, a Month of Benefits." Moon Shine, 209 Columbus Ave. 8-10pm. \$4. Info: 536-0972.

Jamaica Plain ☐ Massachusetts Dept. of Public Health presents a performance of "**AIDS: It's No Joke**," aimed at inner-city adolescents. Bromley Hall, Bromley Heath Housing Project. 7pm. Info: 727-0368, 727-0049.

12 Friday

Boston ☐ **GCN mailing**. Come help stuff the paper and meet new friends. 5pm to 10pm. 62 Berkeley St., near Arlington & Back Bay T-stops. Info: **GCN**, 426-4469.

Boston ☐ **Ongoing healing group** for PWAs and all those wishing to be of support. Meets every Friday. Santa Fe Hair Salon, 528 Tremont St. 7:30-9:30pm. Info: Brian 267-1154, Joseph 357-6926.

Provincetown ☐ **Ten Percent Revue** celebrates its 500th performance. Post Office Cabaret, 303 Commercial St. 8pm. Info: 508/487-2879.

Worcester ☐ AIDS Project — Worcester **support group** meets every Friday night for HIV positive, PWA's, PWARC's, lovers, friends, and the worried well. Open to all lesbians and gay men regardless of HIV status. 51 Jackson St. 7-9pm. Info: Dana, 508/755-3773.

Boston ☐ "**Follywood Squares**" to benefit Bay State Gay and Lesbian Democratic Club. Part of Club Cabaret's "Summer Games, a Month of Benefits." Moon Shine, 209 Columbus Ave. 8-10pm. \$4. Info: 536-0972.

Cambridge ☐ **Women's Coffeehouse** features Women's Video Collection, a showing of works. The Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 8pm-midnight. Info: 354-8807 (TTY/voice).

13 Saturday

Boston ☐ **Living With AIDS Theatre Project**. See 8/6 listing.

Boston ☐ **Women's Self-Defense Classes**. See 8/6 listing.

Boston ☐ Gay Professional Women hosts **Annual Harbor Cruise**. DJ dancing, room for 400 women. Rows Wharf, Mass Bay Lines. 7:30pm. \$12. Info: 585-6051 after 8pm.

Worcester ☐ Worcester County Lesbian and Gay Political Alliance Community **Outing/Picnic**. Rutland State Park. Follow the pink triangles. 12:30pm on. Info: 508/798-3303.

Boston ☐ **Gay Boston**, a weekly cable program with Candace Van Auken, this week features Lea Deloria and Kelly Edwards from the musical comedy "Dos Lesbos." Boston Neighborhood Network, channels A3 and A8. 7:30-8pm.

Boston ☐ "**The Dating Game for Men**" to benefit Massachusetts Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus. Part of Club Cabaret's "Summer Games, a Month of Benefits." Moon Shine, 209 Columbus Ave. 8-10pm. \$4. Info: 536-0972.

14 Sunday

Boston ☐ **Bingo**, benefactor to be announced. Part of Club Cabaret's "Summer Games, a Month of Benefits." Moon Shine, 209 Columbus Ave. 8-10pm. \$4. Info: 536-0972.

Boston ☐ **Downtown Lesbian** Neighborhood Group meets for brunch. All lesbians living in Back Bay, South End, and Downtown Boston are invited. Info: Joan, 266-5169.

Somerville ☐ **Somerville Lesbian Potluck**. Bring food and non-alcoholic beverage. 6pm. Info: 628-7487.

Jamaica Plain ☐ **Lesbian and Gay Neighbors Potluck Picnic**. Bring a favorite dish to share and a non-alcoholic beverage. All new and old friends welcome. Jamaica Pond, entrance at Open Door Theater sign, opposite Moraine St. on the Jamaicaway. Rain location: Unitarian Church on Centre St. 4-7pm. Info: Kenn 524-8337, Liz 522-3894.

Boston ☐ **Metro Healing**. See 8/7 listing.

Boston ☐ Boston's first **Black Lesbian/Gay Pride Tea Dance**. Buffet included. Open to all. Sponsored by Niobi Productions; proceeds will go toward future activities. Somewhere Else, 295 Franklin St. 4-8pm. \$5.

Worcester ☐ **AIDS Project Worcester Pledge Dance** to raise money for AIDS care and services, called "Dancing for Our Lives." Club 241, 241 Southbridge St. 7-11pm. Info: 508/755-3773.

Roxbury ☐ **South African Women's Day**. Speakers include a representative of the ANC. With a Flea Market and Women's Fair. Music, food, games, literature tables. First Church in Roxbury, corner of Dudley and Putnam Sts. 1-5pm. Info: 661-1652.

Gloucester ☐ Join **Am Tikva** for a beach outing at Good Harbor. Meet at 9am at Workmen's Circle, Brookline, to car pool, or at snack bar at beach at 10:30am. Info: Michael 965-2423.

Boston ☐ **Boston's Other Voice** special guests Stephanie Poggi and Marc Stein represent **Gay Community News**. With host Peter Stickel. WROR 98.5FM. 11:30pm.

15 Monday

Boston ☐ **Women's Rugby Club**. See 8/8 listing.

Cambridge ☐ **Lesbian Rap** topic: "Sexual Vulnerability." The Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 8-10pm. Free. Info: 354-8807 (TTY/voice).

Boston ☐ Reception in support of the **United Farm Workers of America**. Hors d'oeuvres, cash bar. Fenway Garden Cafe, 100 Peterborough St. 6:30-8:30pm. \$20.

16 Tuesday

Lawrence ☐ Massachusetts Dept. of Public Health presents a performance of "**AIDS: It's No Joke**," aimed at inner-city adolescents. Lawrence Housing Authority Projects. Time TBA (a.m. & p.m.). Info: 727-0368, 727-0049.

CALENDAR COMPILED BY
TODD HOLLISTER



Martha Swope Associates/Carol Rosegg

"The spirit of Salem once again arises in Massachusetts."

— Gore Vidal, 1978

By Elizabeth Pincus

BOSTON — By the time Anita Bryant arrived in Boston in September 1978 to perform at a "pro-family" rally, the gay community had mobilized a scrappy resistance movement to counter a growing wave of anti-gay hysteria. In the wake of that intense year of struggle by gay liberationists, a new legal organization was formed to assist gay men and lesbians who were victims of injustice. Dubbed Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders, or GLAD, the group is now celebrating its tenth anniversary. Marking a decade of queer legal advocacy, GLAD held a community forum on June 29 to revisit the struggles of 1978 and examine their relevance to today's lesbian/gay movement.

Looking back — glimpses of recent gay history in Boston

Right-wing backlash against an increasingly organized gay movement since the winter of 1977 had, by the next year, resulted in sweeping arrests of gay men for so-called "sex crimes." Politicians were hopping on anti-gay, anti-porn bandwagons and the mainstream media took the momentum and ran with it: charges that a vast interstate network of gay men was trafficking in youth, drugs, pornography and prostitution lead to the atmosphere of a witch hunt.

Meanwhile, the Boston/Boise Committee — named to draw connections with a similar resistance movement in Idaho in the '50s — banded together to fight the rising tide of homophobia. Boston/Boise members protested the arrests of 24 men in a "Revere sex ring," demonstrated outside the Boston Public Library when over 100 men were arrested for homosexual acts and, in late summer, joined with other pro-gay activists and feminists to form the September One Coalition. The ad hoc coalition came together to protest Bryant's planned appearance in Boston on September 1. Bryant, notorious for launching the repeal of a gay rights amendment to the Dade County, Florida



A demonstration against District Attorney Garrett Byrne, prosecutor in the Revere sex case, Boston, April 27, 1978

1978 revisited

Boston looks back at the year of Anita Bryant's visit, the year of the gay male witchhunt, and the legacy of the "good gays, bad gays" split

human rights ordinance, was due to sing at a "pro-life, pro-family" fundraiser for state Senate candidate Howard Phillips.

But Bryant was daunted by the combined forces of the September One Coalition. Unable to sell enough tickets to finance her show, Bryant was forced to cancel, whereas nearly 2000 demonstrators turned out in Copley Square to show support for gay rights, women's reproductive rights, housing and employment rights, and full equality for all.

A seeming victory for the forces of gay rights, the September One action also fueled some dissent among activists: those who sought respectability and mainstream acceptance became embroiled in conflict with those who were perceived as more "radical." (This fall-out became billed as a

split between the "good gays" and the "bad gays.") Others criticized the revitalized gay movement for failing to offer more than lip service to women and people of color. Some contention also arose between feminists and others concerned about child abuse, and gay men and their supporters who wished to abolish all age-of-consent laws concerning sex.

By year's end, the formation of GLAD was well underway. The flurry of activism in Boston in 1978 also helped lead to the founding the following year of the North American Man/Boy Love Association (NAMBLA), an advocacy group for men and boys involved in inter-generational relationships. The year's struggles had brought together fledgling coalitions for combatting homophobia, but had also set the stage for

new political battles over pornography and inter-generational sex.

Ten years later

About 200 people — many of them new to gay politics in the last decade — turned out for the GLAD anniversary forum on June 29 to hear a panel of speakers reminisce about their involvement in Boston/Boise and the September One Coalition. The panel, which included GLAD founding attorney John Ward, represented a broad spectrum of political perspectives. Participants spoke of connections between past struggles and current concerns, notably the AIDS crisis, the feminist movement, and backlash against the lesbian/gay community. Overall, however, the event offered little discussion of specific political issues, but lots of nostalgia, tale-spinning and pithy commentary.

Moderator Cindy Rizzo, current president of the GLAD board of directors, opened the discussion by citing the "horrendous series of events" that lead to GLAD's formation. She described 1988 as a similarly crucial time which has spawned a new generation of lesbian and gay activists. "This is not the time to sit back and be good boys and girls, or 'good gays and bad,'" Rizzo said.

Each panelist followed with a brief presentation. Along with Ward, panel speakers were: Charley Shively, a *Fag Rag* Collective member and former participant in Boston/Boise; Kate Gyllensvard, from the September One Coalition; Roberta Stone, who worked for *GCN* in 1978; civil rights attorney Katherine Triantifillou; and Ed Hougen, who helped form GLAD and now publishes the *Guide to the Gay Northeast*. The panelists provided lively and varied accounts of their memories from 1978 — and their thoughts about 1988 — with a focus on both the splits and commonalities in experience between lesbians and gay men.

"In 1978, the lesbian, gay and women's communities were united as a result of the new right," Gyllensvard said. "We were all viewed by the public, the media and the law as having fringe behaviors — people into

Continued on page 7



Boston Housing Authority

The Boston Housing Authority (BHA) is identifying and providing remedies for applicants for public housing who have been designated as disadvantaged by the recent agreement for voluntary compliance between the BHA and the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The BHA is attempting to contact minority applicants who applied for housing at the Charlestown, Old Colony and Mary Ellen McCormack developments and whose applications were withdrawn after Oct. 1, 1983. (Minority applicants are defined in the agreement as Hispanics and all non-white persons including black, American Indian, Asian and other non-white persons). Letters have been mailed to withdrawn, disadvantaged applicants at their last addresses on file with the BHA. If you are a minority applicant who applied for housing at Charlestown, Old Colony or Mary Ellen McCormack whose application was withdrawn after Oct. 1, 1983, and you did not receive a letter regarding your status as a withdrawn applicant, you should contact the BHA. You might be an applicant who the BHA is trying to reach.

Please call the BHA at 482-6207 as soon as possible, to find out if your name is on the list of withdrawn applicants who are designated as disadvantaged.



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